



# THE UPPER BURNETT AND CALLIDE VALLEY DISTRICTS QUEENSLAND

FIRST EDITION

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THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT  
INTELLIGENCE & TOURIST BUREAU  
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# The Upper Burnett and Callide Valley Districts

QUEENSLAND.

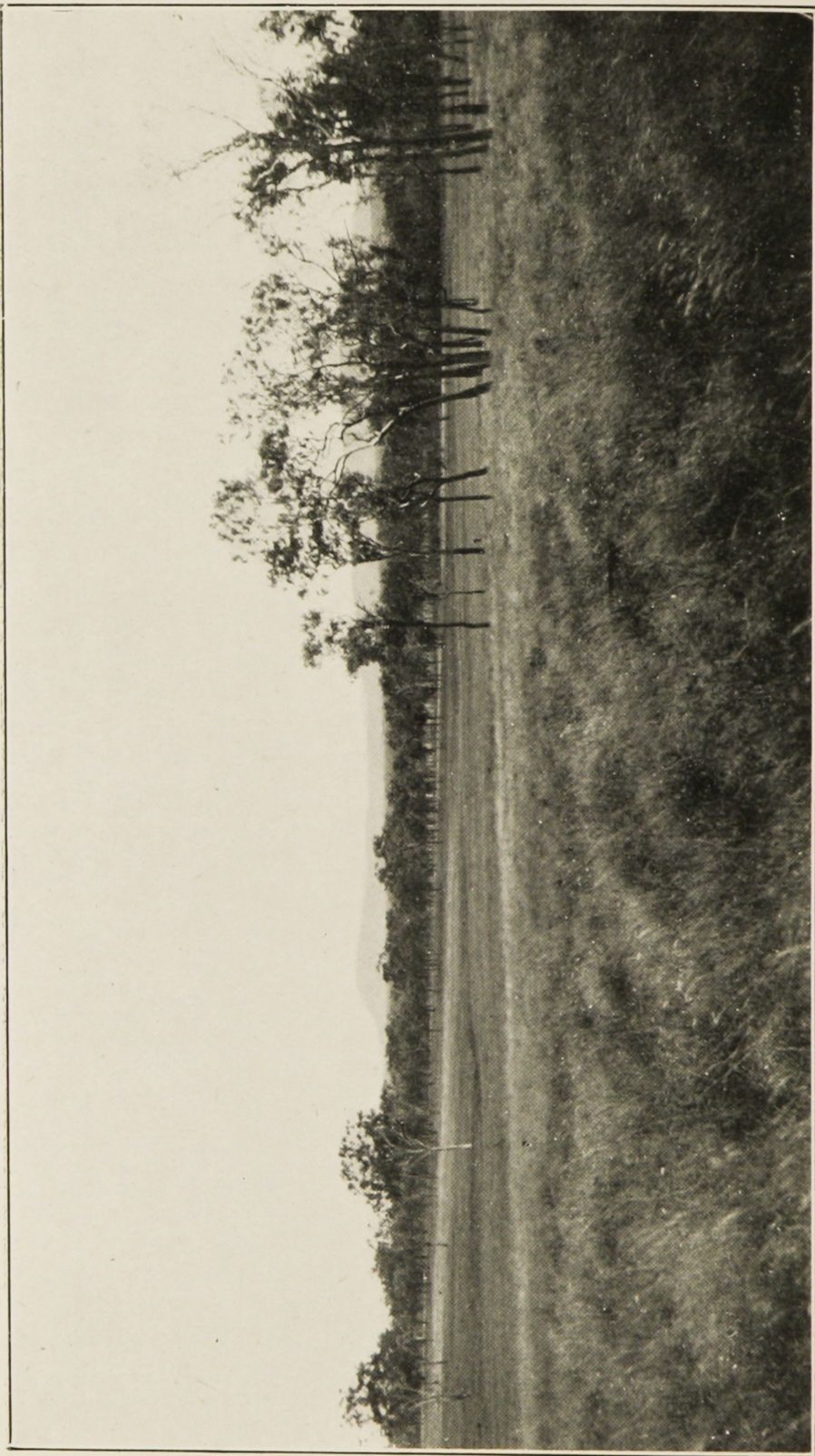
Large Areas of Agricultural,  
Dairying, and Grazing Land  
: Available for Selection :

FIRST EDITION



Compiled and Issued by  
The Queensland Government Intelligence and Tourist Bureau,  
Circular Quay Buildings (opposite Customs House), Brisbane





*Well-grassed Country at Coomingleah (Upper Burnett District).*



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*Cotton Plantations near Wowan (Dawson Valley Line).*



# The Upper Burnett and Callide Valley Districts

## INTRODUCTION.

Queensland stands pre-eminent among the States of the Commonwealth of Australia because of the unlimited possibilities she holds out to new settlers for the development of her agricultural and pastoral activities under the most advantageous conditions. Within her territory of 429,120,000 acres, she has vast areas of fertile land, which will produce all kinds of crops on a large scale, and which should give profitable employment to millions of agriculturists.



*Lagoon at Mulgildie (Upper Burnett District).*

The Upper Burnett and Callide Valley Districts are tracts of country which offer immense opportunities in this respect. They comprise an area of about 3,000,000 acres, and are situated about 350 miles northerly from Brisbane, and about 60 miles



westerly from Bundaberg and Gladstone, while their southern extremity is west-north-west of Maryborough, and their northern extremity is within 60 miles of Rockhampton. The districts have a length from their most extreme point in the north-west and south-east respectively of  $117\frac{1}{2}$  miles, and their greatest breadth from east to west is 63 miles. In pursuance of the closer settlement policy of the Government, a large number of the big holdings previously held under lease by pastoralists and grazing farmers for the breeding of cattle and horses have been resumed,



*Scene on Binjour Plateau, near Gayndah (Upper Burnett District).*

and cut up into smaller areas for agricultural, dairying, and grazing purposes. In the Upper Burnett District the area classified in this respect aggregates nearly 1,500,000 acres, and in the Callide Valley District over 1,000,000 acres.

The land settlement and railway construction schemes for the development of the Upper Burnett and Callide Valley Districts stand out on their own because of their magnitude. It is computed that the construction of the lines in the areas



referred to will involve an estimated expenditure of about £2,000,000, and the throwing open of the fertile lands will provide homes for from 20,000 to 30,000 people. That the land is, generally, exceptionally fertile, and admirably adapted for the successful carrying on of agriculture in its different phases, has been already conclusively demonstrated by the pastoralists, who, in a small way, have been for years past raising various kinds of crops with more than ordinary success. The area of land to be thrown open for closer settlement will total about 3,000,000 acres, and will be made available for selection under perpetual



*Burning-off Scrub in the Upper Burnett District.*

lease and grazing homestead tenures as agricultural and dairy farms. The perpetual lease portions will range from 160 acres to 1,280 acres in area, but those in excess of that area will be opened as grazing homesteads, and the selectors of these grazing blocks will be given the right of cultivating the whole or part of their holdings.

The rental of the perpetual lease selections during the first period of fifteen years (except the second year, which is free of rent) will be  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of the notified capital value of the



land, and the annual rental for each period of fifteen years thereafter shall be determined by the Land Court at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of the unimproved capital value of the land.

The country comprises alluvial flats, easy slopes, and undulating ridges, tablelands here and there, with a proportion of ridgy broken country near the watersheds; while at the head of the watersheds there are precipitous cliffs and immense gorges. Analyses of samples of soils representative of the



*Burnett River, Gayndah (Upper Burnett District).*

Districts referred to disclose that these are of exceptionally high quality. These soils comprise black, brown, red volcanic, chocolate, dark and light sandy loam, with stretches of a light sandy character. The country is rich in useful timbers, as is evidenced by the density of the scrubs and the size of the trees in the open forest. *Where scrub is mentioned in this book, it is not to be regarded as stunted vegetation covering useless barren land, but as tropical jungle growing on rich volcanic soil—ideal*



*dairying and agricultural land.* In places there is an abundance of pine and hardwoods, and in this respect new settlers will find no difficulty in getting ample supplies of suitable timber for building and fencing purposes. Much of the country is well watered by streams of a permanent character. The most notable of these are the Burnett River, Three Moon Creek, Monal Creek, Callide Creek, Splinter Creek, Bell Creek, Nogo River, Rawbelle River, Scoria Creek, &c.

According to the classification of the country, there are 290,000 acres of first-class and 791,000 of second-class agricultural land, and 588,000 acres of first-class and 824,000 acres of second-class grazing land. This classification does not disclose



*View from Bald Hills, Mulgildie (Upper Burnett District).*

the exceptional quality of what is described as first-class land, which is equal to any farming country with a similar rainfall to be found in the most favoured districts of the Commonwealth; likewise, the term "second-class" does not adequately describe the land referred to. In many respects, there is not a very marked difference between this so-called first-class and second-class land; in point of fact, the writer saw crops being raised equally as successfully on second-class country as on the first-class areas. In regard to the grazing country a good deal of it is admirably suitable for agriculture, particularly the areas on river flats. With anything like a fair



season, the country will produce profitable yields annually of most kinds of grain and fodder crops. To cite an example: one grazing farmer, with very advanced agricultural inclinations, obtained a yield of over 90 bushels of maize from 1 acre some years ago. Other instances can be quoted of where pastoralists have harvested six cuttings of lucerne in the year, and have cut about two tons of wheaten or oaten hay to the acre. All this has been accomplished under ordinary climatic conditions, thus emphasising the wonderful productivity of the soil. Not only is the soil adapted for the successful cultivation of most kinds of grain and fodder crops,



*Dividing Scrub between Three Moon and Splinter Creeks at  
Old Cannindah (Upper Burnett District).*

but tubers, citrus and other fruits, and cotton will also do well in suitable situations. On most of the stations visited there were to be seen small orchards and vegetable plots, the products from which were used for home consumption. According to official figures, the rainfall for the areas under review averages, for a period of from thirty to forty-nine years, 29 inches annually.

Originally, the country was stocked with sheep, but for many years past the breeding of beef cattle (Herefords, chiefly) has occupied the principal attention of pastoralists. In and around Eidsvold a fair number of the settlers are successfully





*Ringbarked Forest Country at Mulgildie (Upper Burnett District).*



engaged in general farming and dairying pursuits, and this, too, notwithstanding that they have had, up to the present, long distances to carry their cream and produce to the railhead.

Broadly speaking, the country is an expansive valley between long stretches of more or less high mountain ranges, and is divided by the eastern and western watersheds of a number of fairly large streams. The Upper Burnett country lies to the south of this watershed, and is watered by many large creeks flowing southward and eastward into the Burnett River. The Callide Valley-Prairie country lies to the northward, and is watered by creeks and rivers flowing northward and westward to the Dawson River. The valley is divided from north to south by a series of ridges, which form the watersheds



*Scrub Scene on Old Cannindah (Upper Burnett District).*

between the various streams in the localities. Though some of this country is second-class grazing land, a good portion of it is composed of deep red, chocolate, black, and grey soils, densely covered with brigalow and vine scrub. It is similar in every respect to the country to be found in the productive Mundubbera, Binjour, and Gurgeena Plateaux districts in the south, and Wowan and Rannes districts in the north. The soil is generally fairly friable, and, when broken up, is easy to work.

Speaking generally, the country under existing conditions is one of the best grazing propositions in the Commonwealth. It carries a good body of nutritious grasses, even in dry periods, with the result that stock are usually to be found in good condition. This refers particularly to beef cattle. So far as



dairy cattle are concerned, though naturally not in the pink of condition during dry spells, they give fair returns for cream monthly when pastured on the natural herbage. A small number of the farmers, with more advanced ideas, provide for the maintenance of the milking herd by feed in the form of ensilage. Such farmers are amply repaid for their expense and trouble in this direction. Incidentally, it may be mentioned that the future success of the agricultural industry in the Upper Burnett and Callide Valley country—in fact, the whole of Queensland, for that matter—depends largely on the adoption of more scientific methods than are in vogue at present—to wit,



*View on Cattle Creek, Coomingleah (Upper Burnett District).*

improved farming and the conservation of fodder. Where these scientific methods have been pursued by agriculturists a very marked amount of success has been attained even under the most adverse meteorological conditions. Then, again, various streams in the localities referred to lend themselves admirably for the carrying out of irrigation on a more or less large scale, thus reducing the possibility of agricultural failures to a very negligible quantity.

The fact that the Government has decided to establish two Demonstration Farms on Monal Creek (Upper Burnett District) and near Prairie (Callide Valley District) should be the means of exemplifying to the intending settlers the wonderful possibilities



of the country. On these farms the Government intends putting various cereal crops, grasses, lucerne, and cotton under cultivation. Several small demonstration plots have already been established at Mulgildie (Upper Burnett District). As regards cotton, it may be stated at this juncture that quite a number of the pastoralists, as well as agriculturists, are devoting much attention to the cultivation of cotton for the coming season. Taken on the whole, the acreage in the aggregate will not be large, most of the growers being content to plant only small areas. In one case, however, the lessee on Prairie station has entered into arrangements with a well-known cotton-grower in the Wowan district for the planting of no less than 300 acres of cotton on the share system. When the first instalment of



*View of the Monto Country (Upper Burnett District).*

Crown lands on the Upper Burnett and Callide Valley country is thrown open for selection towards the end of the year, it can be reasonably assumed that a percentage, at least, of the new settlers will devote some of their attention to the cultivation of cotton. With such wonderful advantages in its favour, there is no reason why this tract of country should not be one of the greatest cotton-producing centres in the Commonwealth. Land such as is to be found at Mulgildie, Dalgangal, Cania, Callide Creek, and Prairie will grow anything in the shape of crops, and for dairying and grazing purposes it compares favourably with the best in the State.





1, Gum and Apple Tree Flats at Dalgangal. 2, Alluvial Flats at Mulgildie. (Both in Upper Burnett District.)



Notwithstanding that the country under review has been described as a valley, the whole of the area comprised therein is in reality a tableland, with an elevation of from 800 to 2,000 feet above sea-level. Furthermore, it is sheltered from the humidity of the coast by the Burnett and Dawes Ranges, and the winds coming in from the Pacific Ocean are, therefore, dry and keen. The country is in proximity to the Tropic of Capricorn, and yet it enjoys a climate which is particularly invigorating and healthy. This is made manifest by the sturdy appearance not only of the grown-ups, but the children as well. In fact, the Upper Burnett and Callide Valley country is, thanks to its elevation, as congenial to white people as any other portion of the Commonwealth.



*Red Sandstone Cliffs at Cania (Upper Burnett District).*

That the Government has the welfare of the people at heart is made clear by the fact that in the Mundubbera district, which is just outside the borders of the areas under review, there are twenty State schools for the education of the children of the settlers. As soon as the Upper Burnett and Callide Creek country is settled on and formed into large communities, it follows as a natural corollary that adequate schooling facilities will be provided for the children of the new settlers.

Though capital is a necessity in connection with agricultural as well as other pursuits, still it is not the only thing that tends towards the successful accomplishment of any undertaking.



Quite a number of the pioneering settlers in adjoining districts started on the land with little or no capital—that is to say, capital in the shape of £ s. d.; but they had a superabundance of capital in the shape of grit, determination, perseverance, and energy. The little money they had was invested to the best advantage, and by the exercise of thrift and resourcefulness they overcame many of their initial worries, with the result that many of these pioneers have turned the corner of adversity and are now on the highway towards independence. It is well, however, to remark at this stage that a fair amount of financial capital is not a burden for any intending settler to have prior to taking up land for agricultural or other purposes, and the practical man



*View from Mr. H. Smith's Plainview Farm, Eidsvold  
(Upper Burnett District).*

with a fair amount of it is not generally so beset with worries as the individual who starts life with a comparatively empty purse. Under the provisions of the State Advances Act, settlers can obtain a loan up to £1,200 at a rate not exceeding 15s. in the £ on the security value of the land and improvements effected or proposed. Loans are also granted to the full value of certain initial improvements. The loans are for a period of twenty-five years. For the first five years of that time only simple interest is charged at 5 per cent. per annum. After five years the borrower must begin to redeem the advance at the rate of £4 0s. 3d. half-yearly for each £100 borrowed (which includes



interest) until the loan has been paid. In addition to loans for effecting improvements, loans are also granted for the purpose of enabling the settler to purchase stock, machinery, and implements, or for relieving the liability on the holding. Furthermore, where the margin of security will permit, cash advances may also be made for general purposes, not exceeding an amount of £400. Advances are also made, under the provisions of the Co-operative Agricultural Production and Advances to Farmers Acts, in order to enable settlers to purchase stock and erect silos. No other State in the Commonwealth offers greater inducements to intending settlers than Queensland, and as soon as they take up land they are encouraged and assisted in every reasonable



*Red Sandstone Cliffs at Cania (Upper Burnett District).*

possible way. The advice and assistance of the various Government experts are at all times at the disposal of the man on the land without any cost whatever.

So far as port facilities are concerned, the Upper Burnett and Callide Valley country is in a singularly fortunate position, inasmuch as it will have, when railway communication is established, no less than three shipping ports, viz., Gladstone, Rockhampton, and Maryborough. The railway lines under construction will connect Many Peaks, Rannes, and Mundubbera, the present termini of the railways from the ports mentioned. These lines are well under way, and no time is to be lost in



opening them for traffic. Quite an army of men is engaged in the construction of these lines, which aggregate 217 miles in length.

As has already been stated in this book, the land settlement and railway construction scheme for the development of the Upper Burnett and Callide Creek country is the biggest Government project of its kind in the Commonwealth, and it is fully expected that, when the lands are thrown open for closer settlement, the Lands Department will have great difficulty in supplying all the demands for land from the intending settlers. It is unquestionably, the best land settlement scheme promulgated during the past half century. In its soil, rainfall, elevation, and



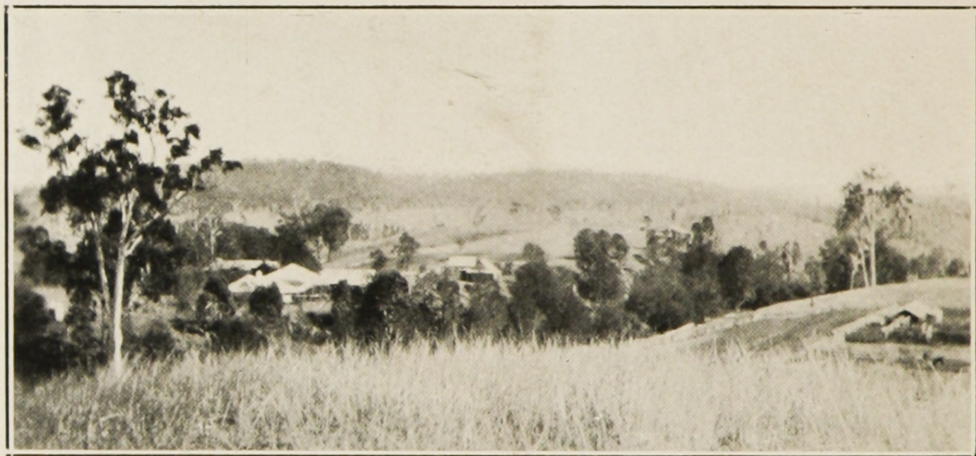
*Red Sandstone Cliffs at Cania (Upper Burnett District).*

geographical proximity to the coast the area is ideal for subdivision into small agricultural and grazing farms. Only railway communication and settlers are necessary to make it one of the most profitable and prosperous agricultural localities in the Commonwealth. The country offers settlers a remarkable variety of profitable occupation. It is not country confined to a single industry. Dairying by grazing the stock on the natural herbage would alone insure the prosperity of the district, but as farmers engage in the conservation of fodder for the hand-feeding of their stock their profits in this respect will be considerably increased. The agricultural prospects, judging by the experiences of those



already on the land, are exceedingly promising, and there is no reason why the Upper Burnett and Callide Creek country should not be one of the most productive agricultural and dairying centres in the Commonwealth. With the expansion of the dairying industry, the necessity will arise for the erection of many butter and cheese factories in the Districts referred to.

Like other portions of Queensland, the Upper Burnett and Callide Valley country possesses a great deal of scenic beauty. This refers particularly to the charming spots to be found close to several of the creeks and rivers, while the mountainous country is remarkable for its wild, weird, rugged, and majestic beauty. The red sandstone cliffs at Cania stand out prominently in this respect, and make one gaze with awe at the wonderful



*Scene at Rosslyn (Upper Burnett District).*

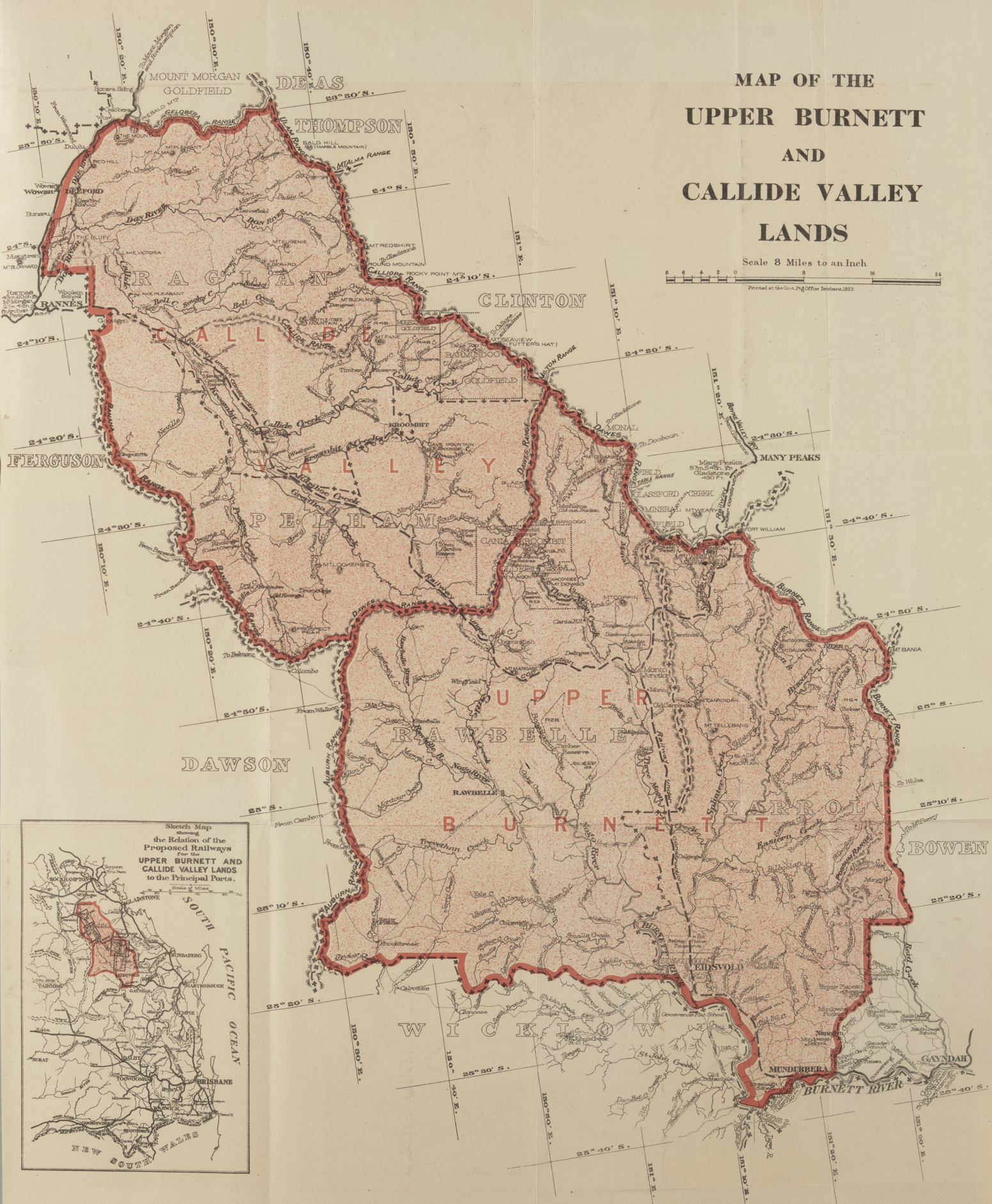
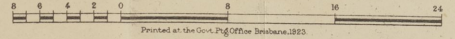
handiwork of the Master Sculptor. At the foot of these precipitous cliffs there is a huge gorge known as the Cania Gorge, in which there is a wealth of the most beautiful tropical and sub-tropical foliage. All of the streams throughout the country referred to teem with edible fishes, while in the Burnett River the ceratodus (or lung-fish) is found in large numbers. Game of all kinds are plentiful, particularly plain and scrub turkeys, quail, duck, waterfowl, &c.

From a mineralogical point of view, the country holds out possibilities for the systematic development of many of the existing shows. Gold, silver, copper, coal, lead, &c., have been proved to exist in the areas, but for various reasons develop-

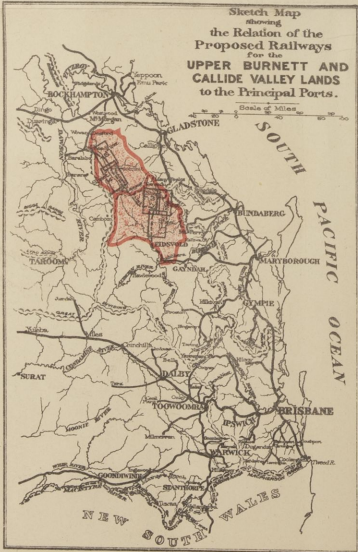


# MAP OF THE UPPER BURNETT AND CALLIDE VALLEY LANDS

Scale 8 Miles to an Inch



Sketch Map showing the Relation of the Proposed Railways for the UPPER BURNETT AND CALLIDE VALLEY LANDS to the Principal Ports.





mental operations have been more or less retarded. Many of the old hands look forward to the time when there will be a revival of the mining industry in the Upper Burnett and Callide Creek country.

### Brief Description of the Country.

The appended description of the Upper Burnett and Callide Valley Districts is culled from reports made by Government staff surveyors:—

Referring to the Upper Burnett generally, it is described as being timbered chiefly with ironbark, gum, bloodwood, box, pine, &c. There is a good deal of brigalow, belar, wilga, and bottle-



*Lake Pleasant at Nettley (Callide Valley District).*

tree scrub. In the aggregate, the scrub amounts to about 127,000 acres—about 50 per cent. of which, at a moderate estimate, is suitable for farming. The most fertile scrub is that along the divide of Three Moon and Splinter Creeks, which extends about 24 miles by a mean width of about 2.6 miles and embraces about 62 square miles. The absence of closer settlement is not due to any want of fertility in the soil or to insufficient rainfall, for, at every station visited, more or less cultivation was seen—maize, oats, lucerne, vegetables, fruit, &c. Taken as a whole, the Upper Burnett is regarded as one of the finest districts in the State, and admirably adapted for closer



settlement. The country is undulating to hilly, seldom mountainous, the elevation ranging by easy graduations from 500 feet to about 2,000 feet; the mean elevation is about 1,000 feet above sea-level, so that the climate is healthy and decidedly bracing in winter. The soils are black, brown, and chocolate volcanic of great fertility; alluvial deposits of great depth and richness on extensive creek flats; fine stretches of rich volcanic country equal to anything on the Darling Downs; and areas of sandy loam. From Cania head station on Clonmel, via Spring, Monal, Pine Mountain, Mahoom, and Three Moon Creeks to the Cania diggings, there is very little of inferior land. The highest hills are splendidly grassed to their summits, while there are some



*Forest Country in the Callide Valley District.*

appreciable areas of cultivable land on the creeks and divide, and large tracts of excellent volcanic soil.

On the whole, the country on Rawbelle is good. The basin of Cattle and Bingmann's Creeks comprises a very fine area of basaltic country (unsurpassed by any similar land in the State), extending not only to the head of Cattle Creek, but across the Dawson Divide on to Grevillea Creek. From Cattle Creek extending south to Reedy Creek there is a considerable area of well-grassed country, a fair proportion of which is cultivable.

The Rawbelle area consists of moderately low ridges and moderately wide flats along the creeks; also softwood scrubs. The ridges are stony in places, generally well grassed, and



thickly timbered with broad-leaf ironbark, narrow-leaf ironbark (in belts), and bloodwood. The flats are sandy, well grassed, and thickly timbered with ironbark, gum, apple, and box. The scrub lands are mostly brigalow and softwood, and the soil is fairly good, being of a loose friable nature and brown in colour. A little blacksoil country is to be seen along the edge of the scrubs on the north-east, and there is a little on Oaky Creek. The soil generally on the ridges is sandy, and of granitic origin; along the creeks it is sandy, but more of an alluvial nature than that on the ridges.

The land in the vicinity of Nogo River and Cattle Creek can be said to be well watered for this class of country. Water can always be obtained in the bed of the creeks by putting in sand troughs. The depth to which wells must be sunk in order to obtain underground supplies on the lands lying back from the creek can only be ascertained by boring or sinking wells. Excellent supplies of water have, however, been obtained by sinking to shallow depths in the locality.

These lands, in conjunction with the Callide Valley country, offer one of the finest opportunities for settlement on a large scale, and, with railway and water facilities, cannot prove anything but a success. There is not the slightest doubt that these beautiful lands at the head of the Burnett River are capable of absorbing hundreds of settlers, and of producing great wealth for the State.

The country in the northern portion of the Burnett River District comprise alluvial creek flats, plains, level, undulating, ridgy, and broken country; high, steep, stony ridges and poor stony and mountainous country with cliffs and gorges. The soils are black and loamy, with patches of black and brown; red, brown, and chocolate scrub soils, in places inclined to be sandy; also poor, sandy, and stony in places. The timbers are hardwoods and softwoods, pine, &c., in the scrubs; and hardwoods, such as ironbark, gum, apple, box, stringybark, bloodwood, &c., in the forest. Several of the creeks are permanent, and there are numerous creeks which hold well; but some hold water for only a short time, and water would have to be conserved. Water is obtainable over the greater part by sinking to reasonable depths.





*Crop of Maize on Gurgeena Plateau (Upper Burnett District).*



The agricultural lands are suitable for general farming and dairying; artificial grasses thrive well. The steep, stony country carries good natural grass, and, where ringbarked, has become first-class grazing and fattening country. Outcrops of limestone denote the country to be good for stock-raising. Many of the ridges have good brown soil, and are excellent for pasturing cattle. Some of the creeks have very wide flats of first-class alluvial soil, whereas in other places the flats are narrow, but with the good soil ridges at the back would make excellent farms.

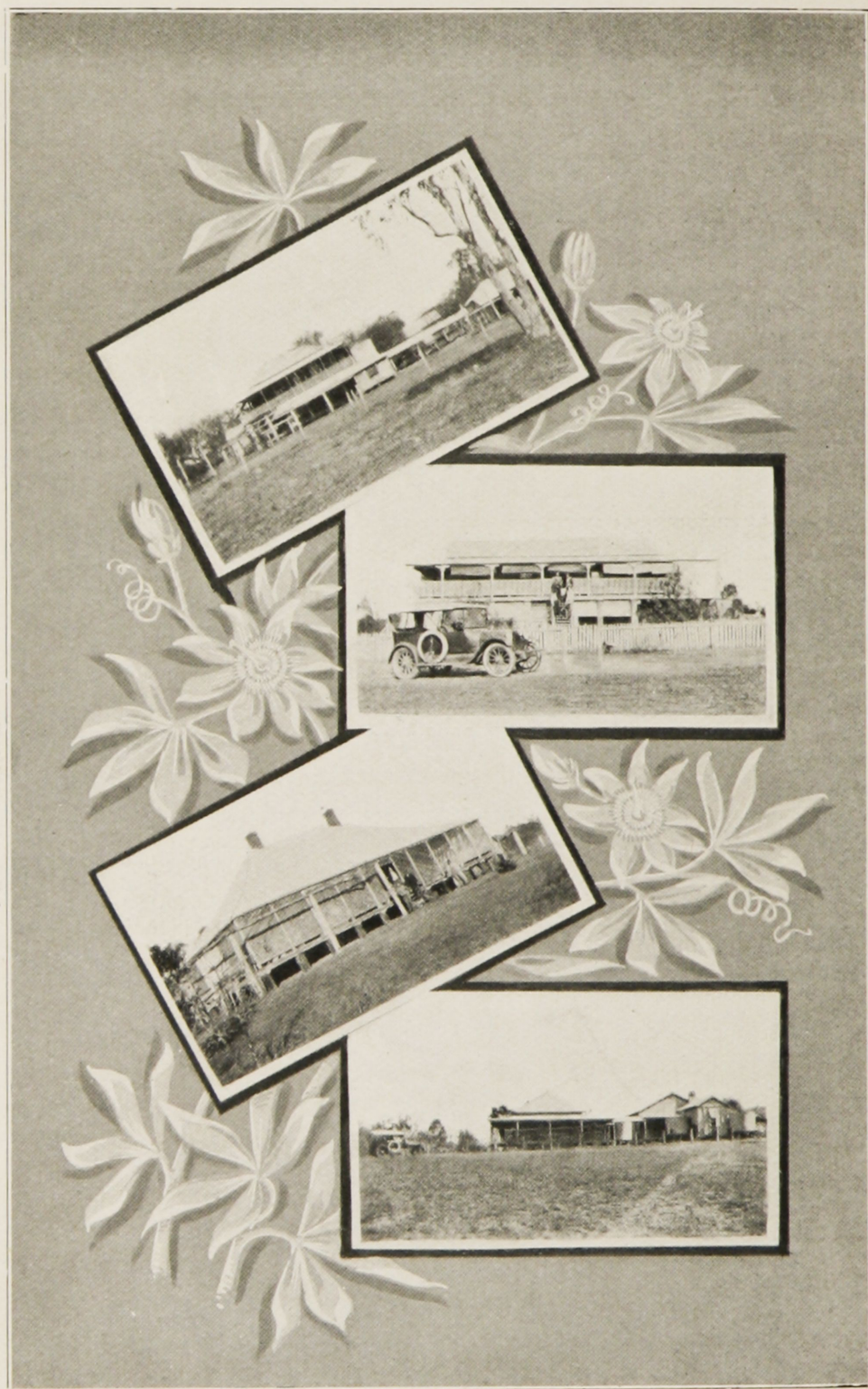
On the south-western portion of the Upper Burnett District, there are areas of brigalow and vine-scrub lands with rich



*Red Sandstone Cliffs at Cania (Upper Burnett District).*

brown soil generally, but in places grey and clayey; easy granite slopes and flats, well-grassed slopes and ridges; small gum flats; fine red and brown soil, easy open ironbark ridges, slopes and flats suitable for cultivation; some poor sandstone ranges; rough and broken country poorly grassed. The existing natural pastures, although good, are readily improved by ringbarking, and would, with the isolated pockets of arable land thereon, make good dairy farms. There is not a great deal of surface water, but, where the formation is granitic, ample supplies of water are obtainable by sinking to a shallow depth in any of the river or creek beds, so that the absence of surface water





HOMESTEADS IN THE UPPER BURNETT DISTRICT.

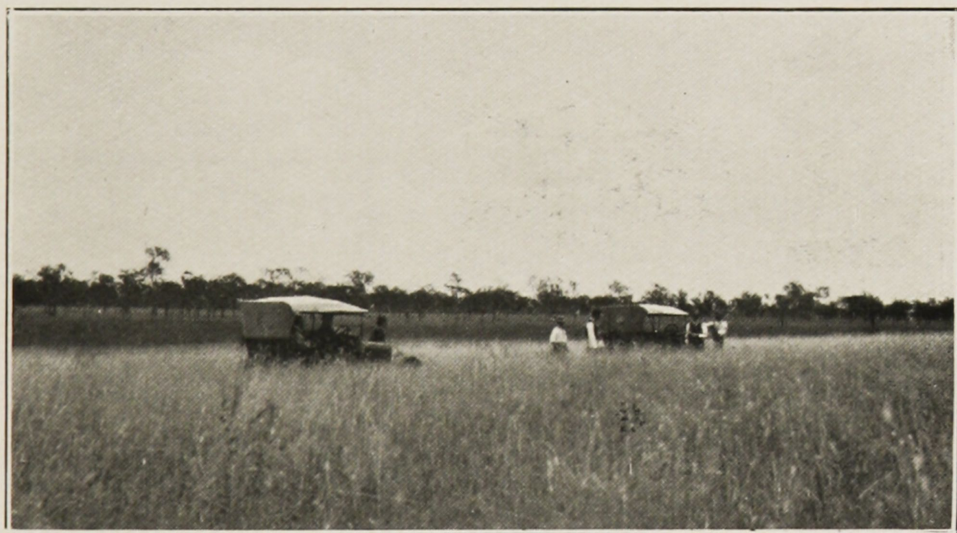
1, *Cania*. 2, *Mulgildie*. 3, *Dalgangal*. 4, *Rosebank*.



should be no deterrent to close settlement. There are scattered areas of arable land on the watercourses and lower slopes, which enhance the value of the surrounding well-grassed ridges. The timbers are principally ironbark, bloodwood, sugar, spotted and blue gum, Moreton Bay ash, messmate, &c.

The classification of the land in the Upper Burnett is as under:—

				Acres.
First-class agricultural	..	..	..	186,000
Second-class	..	..	..	400,000
First-class grazing	..	..	..	498,000
Second-class grazing	..	..	..	336,000
Total				1,420,000



*Blue Grass on Grevillea Plateau (Callide Valley District.)*

The Callide Valley and Prairie lands consist of well-grassed forest flats, timbered with gum and ironbark along the creeks, with a large percentage of rich agricultural lands, thickly timbered ironbark and bloodwood spurs and ridges, ringbarked flats, ringbarked spurs and ridges, rich brigalow and softwood scrubs, wilga scrubs, and various classes of mixed country carrying first and second-class soils.



## Classification of the land in the Callide Valley:—

				Acres.
First-class agricultural	..	..	..	104,680
Second-class agricultural	..	..	..	391,083
First-class grazing	..	..	..	90,676
Second-class grazing	..	..	..	488,083
Total .. ..				1,074,522

The second-class agricultural land is suitable for mixed farming and dairying. The scrub lands, when the timber is felled and burnt, can be planted with artificial grasses, and used for dairying. The rich first-class agricultural land



*Mineral Water Springs in the Upper Burnett District.*

extending along the valleys of the Callide, Bell, Kroombit, Scoria, Grevillea, and Kariboe Creeks consists of forest, generally ring-barked; the soil is of a dark-brown alluvial nature, very rich, and going down a considerable depth. This land, under normal conditions, grows a wide variety of crops. Hundreds of families could be settled in the valleys of the creeks mentioned, and on the scrub lands in their vicinity, provided that the farms have access to a railway line.

The whole valley of the Callide is well watered by many creeks and watercourses, and in average seasons there is an abundance of water throughout the valley. Numerous wells have been sunk in the creek valleys, and from Drumberle in the south



to Don River in the north water has been obtained by sinking to a depth not exceeding 55 feet. In the beds of Scoria, Grevillea, Kariboe, and Kroombit Creeks good water can be easily obtained by sinking; the numerous good wells existing bear out this statement. Waterworn boulders and sand are struck in all the wells along Scoria and the Callide, indicating the presence of an old river-bed. The water in every case is serviceable, and the supply is excellent. Two bores have been sunk in the neighbourhood of Prairie station to a depth of about 212 feet, and good supplies obtained. In one case the water rose 160 feet in the pipe.



*Granite Boulders at Coonambula, Eidsvold (Upper Burnett District).*

The land in the Callide Valley, along the creeks flowing therein, and in the scrubs near the creeks, offers one of the most excellent chances for closer settlement in the State.

### **Geographical Features.**

The Upper Burnett and Callide Valley Districts are composed of a series of tablelands, with intervening valleys and rivers and creek flats. The tablelands are several hundreds of feet in elevation, while the ranges on the eastern and western boundaries attain an altitude of about 2,000 feet in places. On the eastern divide there are Calliope, Dawes, and Burnett Ranges,



the two last-named of which are precipitous in places, with huge gorges. This is particularly the case in the Cania district, where the red sandstone cliffs are picturesque in their wild, majestic, and rugged grandeur. More or less similar conditions prevail on the western divide in consequence of the existence of the Banana and Auburn Ranges. An extension of the Dawes Ranges separates the Callide Valley and Prairie country from the Upper Burnett areas. In the northern portion of the Callide Valley and Prairie country there is the Callide Range, which has a fairly lofty elevation in places. A lengthy spur of the Dawes Range runs to the west of the Cannindah country towards Dalgangal, and another fairly long spur from the Burnett Range runs to the east of the Cannindah holdings as far as Tellebang run. Then to



*The Burnett River at Gayndah (Upper Burnett District).*

the east of the Yarrol holding there is the Black Range. In the Callide Valley area the most outstanding mountains are—Gerard, Eugenie, Bottle Tree, Lookerbie, Buckland, and Scoria. Scattered about the Upper Burnett country there are—Mounts Graarbi, Castle, Rose, Murgon, Bargogo, Wacondée, Dowgo, Margaret, Tellebang Mountains, Cannindah, Dalgaran, Goondicum, Black, Target, Coppin, and Pine.

As has already been stated, both the Upper Burnett and Callide Valley and Prairie Districts are well watered by a large number of streams, many of which carry a plentiful supply of water during all seasons. There are also a number of permanent large lagoons and billabongs. In the Callide Valley and Prairie



country the most prominent watercourse is Callide Creek, which, in places, contains good permanent waterholes. In addition there are Kroombit, Grevillea, and Kariboe Creeks, the minor ones being Scoria, North and South Kariboe, Spring, Neville, Prairie, Prospect, Smoky, Gerard, Bell, Collard, Rainbow, and Crimean Creeks. In the Upper Burnett country the outstanding watercourse is the Burnett River, which contains long stretches of deep, permanent water. Others worthy of mention are—Monal, Three Moon, Splinter, Tellebang, Boogalgopal, Cattle, Marvel, Montour, Trevethan, Culcraigie, and Middle Creeks, and the Nogo and Rawbelle Rivers. A number of the foregoing creeks and rivers carry water all the year round, even during dry spells.



*Beef Cattle on Kariboe Creek (Callide Valley District).*

### Rainfall.

Official record of rainfall from recording telegraph stations adjacent to the Districts:—

Town.	Average.		Period over which record was taken.	
Gayndah .. ..	30.32	inches	..	49 years.
Eidsvold .. ..	29.00	„	..	30 „
Hawkwood .. ..	28.10	„	..	35 „
Camboon .. ..	27.93	„	..	46 „
Banana .. ..	27.51	„	..	49 „
Westwood .. ..	30.26	„	..	45 „



### Stock-raising Activities.

From a stock-raising point of view, the Upper Burnett and Callide Valley Districts hold their own with any other portion of the State of Queensland. This is demonstrated by the splendid condition of the beef cattle and horses, which are raised annually on the various stations in the districts. In the early days of settlement in Queensland the country was taken up by pastoralists in large areas for the breeding of sheep principally. Prior to the resumption of the country for closer settlement, the holders of the pastoral areas were mainly engaged in the breeding of different kinds of beef cattle, though a number of them also bred horses. Herefords and Shorthorns were mostly favoured, but the country is well suited for stock-raising



*Cotton Plantation near Gayndah (Upper Burnett District).*

generally. As a cattle and horse breeding area, the Upper Burnett and Callide Valley Districts have figured prominently for a number of years past. The fat cattle frequently fetch top prices in the Southern markets, and good prices are also obtainable for the draught and thoroughbred horses. In point of fact, quite a number of the blood horses bred in the Districts have won big events on several of the principal Southern racecourses.

### Agricultural Possibilities—The New Settlers' Outlook.

Soils to choose from are in great variety, harmonising with the geological formation of the country. The fertility generally of these, and the consequent suitability of the Districts for closer settlement, have received detailed attention by the



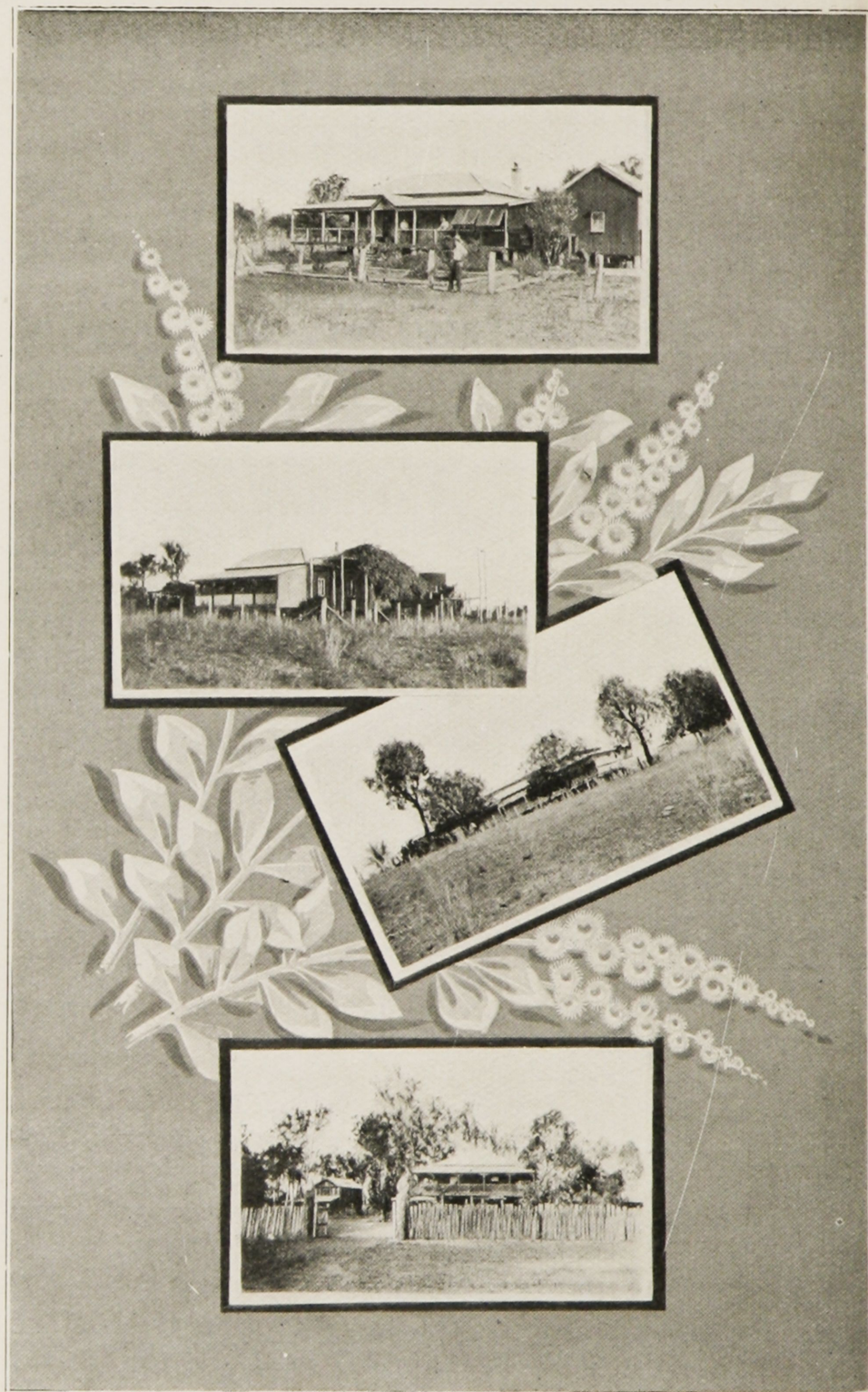
Government. Careful analytical work carried out by the Agricultural Chemist has corroborated the opinions formed by examining Government officers, that good soils are prevalent throughout the Upper Burnett and Callide Valley Districts. There are fairly extensive areas of land adapted for agricultural purposes, the soil being fertile and naturally rich in humus; some of the basaltic soils, in fact, are better in this latter respect than the average soils of the Darling Downs. Remembering that primarily "all wealth comes from the soil," and that the soils existing on individual farms represent the bank (so to speak) from which the £ s. d. is to be drawn upon by the settler in the form of farm produce or stock, it consequently



*Cleared Scrub Land at Glen Rae, Mundubbera  
(Upper Burnett District).*

behoves the incoming settler to exercise an intelligent and careful choice in the selection of his prospective farm, keeping foremost in mind the class of farming to which he intends to devote his attention. Included in the large number of blocks designed are many possessing natural advantages, and with water available can be made productive in a very short space of time. Special attention is drawn to the suitability of the country (both forest and scrub) for dairying, and for the raising of fodder crops or cotton-growing. Much of the forest country contiguous to the watercourses has been ringbarked for a number of years. Where the soil in the ringbarked country is





1 and 2, *Rawbelle and Coomingleh Homesteads* (*Upper Burnett District*. 3 and 4, *Barfield and Nettley* (*Callide Valley District*).



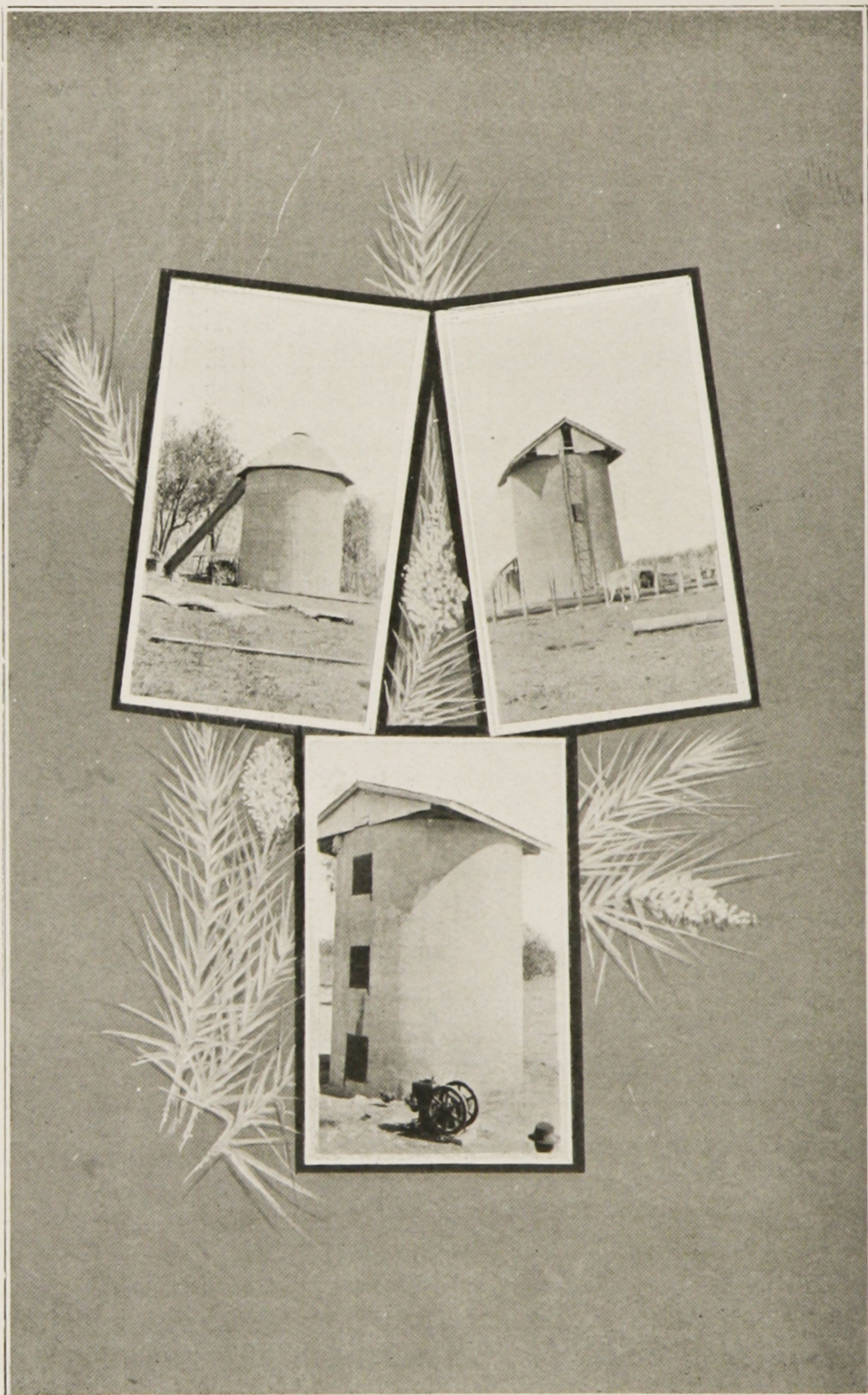
adapted for agriculture, and there are extensive tracts considered suitable, it is not an unduly costly undertaking to prepare the land for the plough. The ringbarked timber burns well, and can be cheaply dealt with by "stoving out" and "cross-burning." The soil throughout the ringbarked country has passed through a natural process of sweetening. It is for the most part readily broken up with stump-jump disc or mould-board ploughs, and soon takes a good tilth. Under these conditions, the settler can confidently make his plans to place an appreciable area under cotton, and he will be well advised who prepares and cultivates his land thoroughly.



*Burning-off Scrub in the Upper Burnett District.*

Cotton, dairying, fodder (lucerne thrives well on selected alluvial situations), hay, and root crops, with maize and sorghums for grain crops, together with pig and poultry raising, offer a wide choice of industry, and a prospective quick return to an energetic settler. On scrub land it is reasonable to expect to have a portion of the holding grassed within twelve months—i.e., the scrub may be felled in June, burnt off in October, and seed sown subsequently, and grass well established by May. The farmer has also the alternative of planting both cotton and





CONCRETE SILOS IN THE UPPER BURNETT DISTRICT.

- 1, *On Spoor and Sons' Farm, Mundubbera.* 2, *On E. Kries' Farm, Woodmillar Scrub, Gayndah.* 3, *On Mrs. Sauer's Farm, Gayndah.*



maize as main crops amongst the stumps, and sowing Rhodes grass seed when the maize and cotton are several inches high, so that as soon as the crops are removed the grass will permanently occupy the land. By felling a patch of scrub each year the farm may be gradually developed and used for dairying or mixed farming. The comparatively recent agricultural settlements established at the gateway, so to speak, of the Upper Burnett and Callide Valley Districts—namely, at Mundubbera and Wowan respectively—indicate that immediately



*Burning-off Scrub in the Upper Burnett District.*

after the fertile land embraced in the new settlement areas is occupied and developed, it follows as a natural corollary that a great increase in production will take place. No better example is needed to illustrate the capabilities of the lands immediately adjoining those about to be thrown open than the testimony of pioneer farmers (referred to elsewhere in this book), who, in the short space of a decade, have not only wrested from virgin country a decent living for themselves and their dependents, but have also built up valuable assets in the way of property, stock, capital, improvements, and working plant.



### Suitableness of Conditions for Dairying.

Dairying will, undoubtedly, be one of the chief industries of the new settlement, and this particular calling may be followed by the incoming settler immediately he puts on the necessary milch cows, and provides the requisite plant, water supply, and conveniences.

Dairy produce represents cash, and the quick turnover, which a new settler requires to carry him on. Butter factories exist at Mundubbera in the South and Gladstone and Wowan in the North ready to receive the cream from the farmers.

Emphasis has already been placed on the crops which are commonly grown in the Districts for fodder purposes, and it is



*Dairy Cattle at Government Bore in Hollywell Scrub,  
Eidsvold (Upper Burnett District).*

advisable for the incoming settler to realise that the production of such crops is essential to maintain the productiveness of herds at a high level, particularly during the winter and early spring. To raise fodder crops to advantage, careful consideration must, naturally, be given to climatic conditions, and it is obvious that thorough preparation of the land, and the conservation of as much soil moisture as can be saved for the use of the crops, is a sound and safe policy. The rainfall chart indicates that in the months of January, February, and March a greater precipitation of moisture occurs than for any similar period in the year. The moral is—Prepare the soil for cropping purposes well in advance of planting time, and go in largely for



summer-growing crops, such as maize, sorghums, millets, cow-peas, sweet potatoes, and sundry others, which can readily be grown in normal seasons. There remain, however, winter fodder crops, which, given favourable rain at this latter period, can also be successfully grown. In this connection wheat, barley, oats or rye, combined with field peas or vetches, are available as a choice.

### **Pig-raising Outlook.**

At the existing prices, and with the prospect of a firm demand continuing for good quality baconers, the outlook for pig-raising as an adjunct to dairying is bright. The climate is favourable, and the crops, which can be grown for maintenance and fattening, cover a wide range. Good avenues for the



*Well-grassed Downs and Forest Country on Grevillea Plateau  
(Callide Valley District).*

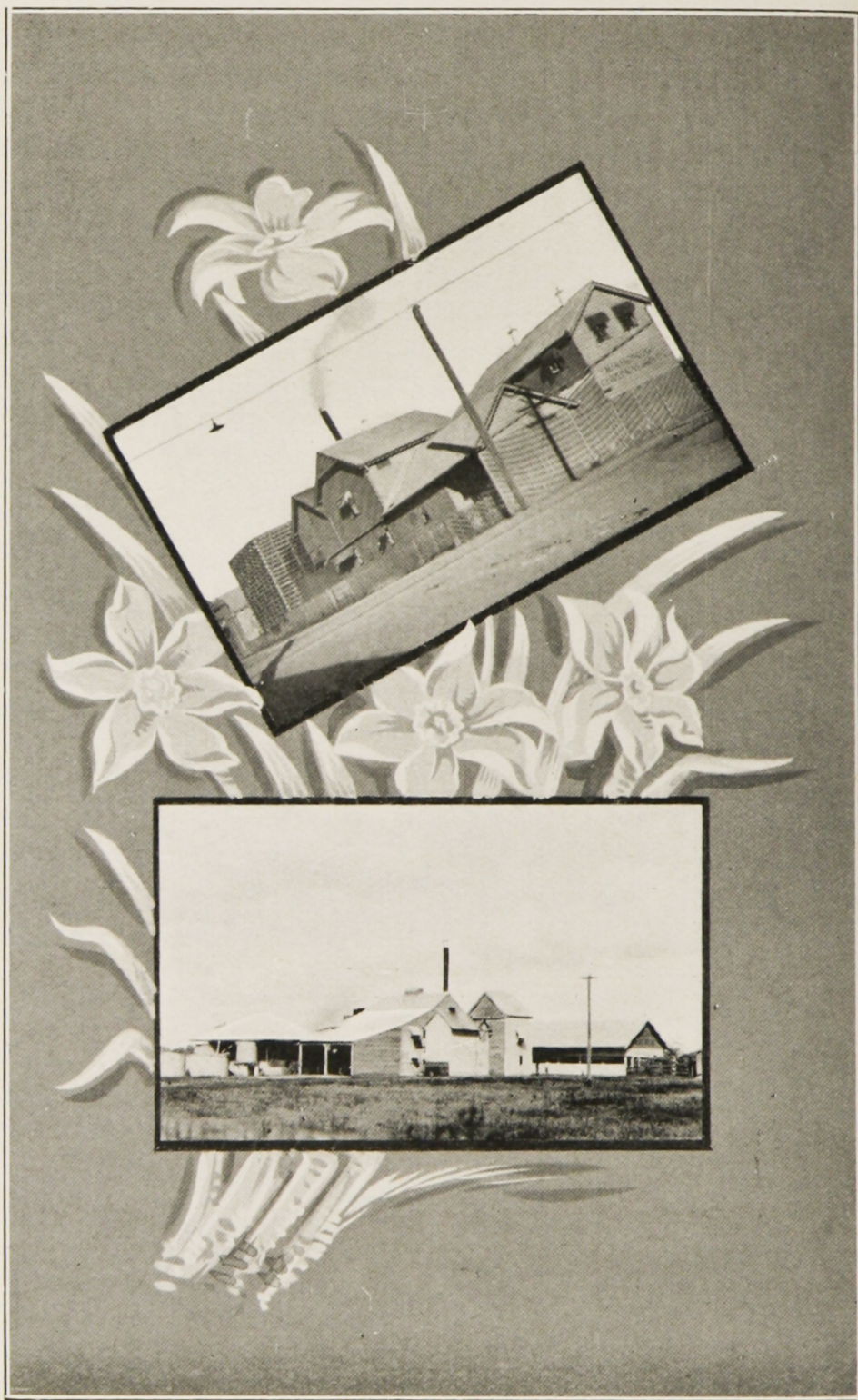
disposal of fat pigs (porkers and baconers) exist at Rockhampton and Maryborough, and the demand from proprietary and co-operative bacon factories in the metropolis is an insistent one.

Fuller details respecting pig-raising in Queensland are embodied in a pamphlet procurable from the Department of Agriculture and Stock.

### **Rhodes Grass on Scrub Lands.**

Great possibilities of development exist for the scrub-covered lands which occur somewhat extensively in both the Upper Burnett and Callide Valley districts. These generally are





1, Maryborough Co-operative Dairy Co.'s Butter Factory.  
2, Reads' Ltd. Bacon Factory. (Both in Maryborough.)



readily amenable to improvement at a comparatively small cost. Felling (and this outlay is saved where the settler does his own) costs about 32s. 6d. per acre, and is effected in the winter. Burning off takes place in the spring. Rhodes grass (*Chloris gayana*) seed (about 5 lb. to the acre) is sown on the ashes during spring and summer. Provided rainy and cloudy weather is experienced to assist germination, and a favourable season follows, a luxuriant and permanent stand of grass will result in the course of a few months. With water available (the scrub lands do not ordinarily possess surface supplies), the new scrub block can be quickly put into shape and made to earn money. A great variety of crops can also be grown on scrub lands to



*Well-grassed Coominglah Flats (Upper Burnett District).*

supplement the artificial grasses. These two sources of good supply indicate that the dairyman, who can raise sufficient capital to make the necessary improvements and purchase stock, has every opportunity of making good.

### **Cotton-growing Possibilities.**

At the present time no more promising crop than cotton can be found for the extensive scrub lands, the alluvial deposits, and the more loamy classes of soil suitable for agriculture, which exist throughout the Upper Burnett and Callide Valley Districts. The undoubted vitality of the cotton plant, and the inherent



capacity possessed to adapt itself to seasonal changes, even to the extent of shedding a percentage of flowering buds, should a dry spell of weather occur when these are being formed, indicate that cotton as a crop is peculiarly fitted for the Australian climate. While prices for raw cotton keep up—and there is every reason to anticipate they will do so—the incoming settler may regard the annual crop of Upland cotton as one which can be successfully grown, both on the agricultural forest lands and on the majority of the scrub soils throughout the area being thrown open for selection.



*Cotton Plantation near Wowan (Dawson Valley Line).*

Cotton finds a congenial home in many parts of Queensland, and the conditions for its production in the Upper Burnett and Callide Valley Districts are favourable. From seed sown in the spring, the plants have a good chance of establishing themselves prior to the summer rainy season, and the approaching sunny weather which follows is ideal for the maturing of sound fibre, representing what may be termed good Queensland "bread and butter" cotton.



The Government has carefully fostered the industry, and the cotton-grower enjoys the unique privilege of a guaranteed price for his produce. A fair average return to the grower is £10 per acre net.

The conditions under which advances will be made to growers of seed cotton for the season ending the 31st July, 1924, are—

1. Good-quality cotton is defined as being seed cotton of good quality, free from disease and from the following defects:—

That it is not ratoon cotton, it is clean, properly packed, and not immature, stained, dirty, or otherwise damaged.

2. The term “ratoon cotton” is applied to the second or any subsequent growth made by plants which have already been raised from seed, irrespective of whether such plants have borne a crop or not.

3. The seed cotton is cotton in the seed from annual plantings.

4. An advance will be made for cotton of good quality, free from disease and defects—

(a) To growers of seed cotton of  $1\frac{1}{4}$ -inch staple,  $5\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.,

(b) To growers of seed cotton of less than  $1\frac{1}{4}$ -inch staple, 5d. per lb.,

delivered at the nearest ginnery, or as may otherwise be arranged by the Department of Agriculture and Stock; but no advance will be paid to any grower for the product of more than 50 acres in any one season.

5. Any grower having a greater area of seed cotton than 50 acres can send his cotton from the area exceeding 50 acres, for which advances are made, to the ginnery for ginning and marketing on owner's account and risk. Every grower of more than 50 acres of seed cotton must notify the manager of the ginnery, and furnish him with full particulars of the excess quantity; failure to give information may jeopardise an advance on the first 50 acres.

6. The advances mentioned in No. 4 are minimum advances, and any profits accruing, after deducting the cost of ginning and marketing, will be divided, pro rata, amongst those who supplied seed cotton.





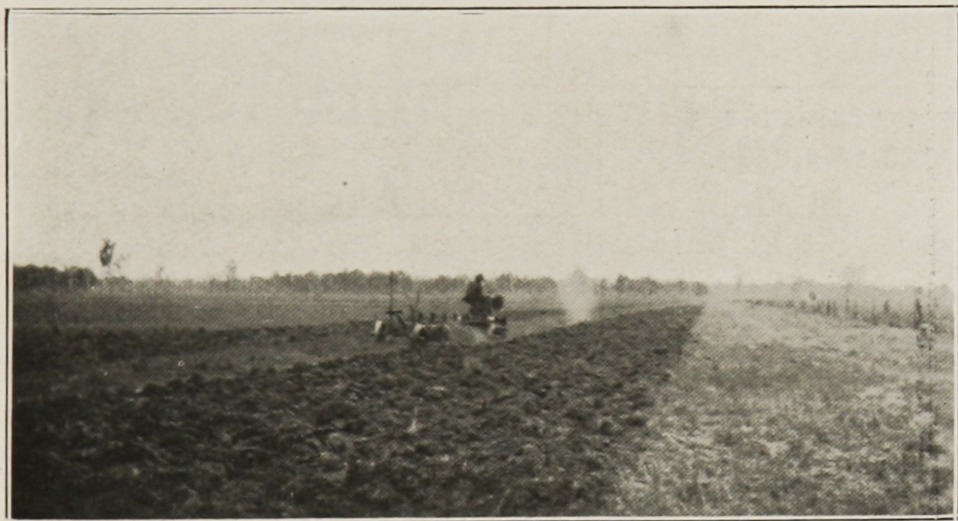
*Cotton Plantation near Wowan (Dawson Valley Linc).*



7. No ratoon cotton will be received at the ginneries.

8. Seed cotton delivered at the ginnery that is found to be of inferior quality, and not free from disease or defects as mentioned in Condition No. 1, may be precluded from any advance or may be classed at a lesser value than the full advance, or treated on the owner's account as the Minister may decide.

9. All grading and inspection of cotton at ginneries, subject to an advance, will be under the supervision and direction of officers of the Department of Agriculture and Stock, whose decision, subject to the right of an appeal to the Minister, shall be final.



*Ploughing with a Motor Tractor and Five-furrow Plough  
near Wowan (Dawson Valley Line).*

10. All cotton must be grown from seed obtained through the Department of Agriculture and Stock.

**Note.**—The rates and conditions of advances for the years 1925 and 1926 have yet to be determined.

Several modern cotton ginneries have been established during the last two years by the British-Australian Cotton Association at Rockhampton, Gladstone, Wowan, Gayndah, Brisbane, and Dalby. A large oilmill for the extraction of cotton-seed oil and appliances for dealing with the by-products has been erected in Brisbane, and a second mill is to be established on the North Coast handy to port.



The progress made in growing cotton and ginning during the last four seasons may be gathered from the undermentioned figures:—

Season.				Seed Cotton Produced.	Value.
				Lb.	£
1919-20	..	..	..	45,581	1,038
1920-21	..	..	..	922,773	21,130
1921-22	..	..	..	3,878,225	88,491
1922-23	..	..	..	11,005,814 (incomplete)	247,456 (incomplete)

A 50 per cent. increase in the area under crop is anticipated for the 1923-24 season.



*Billabong off Splinter Creek at New Cannindah (Upper Burnett District), showing Mob of Herefords in background.*

### **COST OF COTTON PRODUCTION.**

The undermentioned figures collected recently by the Department of Agriculture and Stock in respect to last year's crop may be taken as examples. In each instance on the forest country where cultivation was carried on the cost was calculated at local rates, and picking was charged up at the rate of 2d. per lb.



The following is the estimated cost of producing an acre of cotton in the Dawson Valley District on six different farms:—

—	No. 1.	No. 2.	No. 3.	No. 4.	No. 5.	No. 6.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Scrub felling ..	1 15 0	1 15 0	1 12 6	1 12 6	1 15 0	1 10 0
Ploughing twice ..	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 6 0	..	..
Harrowing twice ..	0 3 6	0 6 0	0 3 0	0 2 6	0 3 0	0 3 0
Planting ..	0 9 0	0 13 0	0 6 0	0 5 0	0 3 6	0 3 6
Cultivating, horse ..	0 5 0	0 4 0	0 5 0	0 3 0	0 3 6	0 3 6
Chipping and thinning	0 5 0	0 4 0	0 5 0	0 3 0	0 3 6	0 3 6
Totals ..	2 17 6	3 3 0	2 11 6	2 9 0	2 1 6	1 16 6

Average cost forest land ..	..	..	..	..	..	£2 15 3
Average cost scrub land ..	..	..	..	..	..	£1 19 0

Yields per acre (lb.)	1,200	420	900	1,000	1,000	1,400
Harvesting at 2d. per lb.	10 0 0	3 10 0	7 10 0	8 6 8	8 6 8	11 13 4
Bagging and cartage	0 9 0	0 3 0	0 6 6	0 7 6	0 7 6	0 10 6
Totals ..	10 9 0	3 13 0	7 16 6	8 14 2	8 14 2	12 3 10

Average cost forest land ..	..	..	..	..	..	£7 13 2
Average cost scrub land ..	..	..	..	..	..	£10 9 0
Total cost production forest land ..	..	..	..	..	..	£10 8 5
Total cost production virgin scrub land ..	..	..	..	..	..	£12 8 0

Income, Cotton sold 5½d. per lb.—

No. 1.	No. 2.	No. 3.	No. 4.	No. 5.	No. 6.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
27 10 0	9 12 6	20 12 6	22 18 4	22 18 4	32 1 8

Cost of Production—

No. 1.	No. 2.	No. 3.	No. 4.	No. 5.	No. 6.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
13 6 6	6 16 0	10 8 0	1 3 2	10 15 8	14 0 4

Net Income—

No. 1.	No. 2.	No. 3.	No. 4.	No. 5.	No. 6.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
14 3 6	2 16 6	10 4 6	11 15 2	12 2 8	18 1 4

Net returns forest land ..	..	..	..	..	£9 14 11
Net returns virgin scrub land ..	..	..	..	..	£15 2 0



The estimate of cost of production of cotton, when raised as a main crop, is as follows:—As cotton will in future be raised on many farms as the main crop, the following is an estimate of the cost per acre of production by the use of up-to-date implements, such as multifurrow ploughs, double-row planters, and cultivators:—

First ploughing, 17s.; second ploughing, 10s.; harrowing (twice), 4s.; planting, 2s.; cultivating between rows (four times), 10s.; chipping and thinning, 10s.; twine, cartage, 8s.; total, £3 1s. 0d.



*Good Dairying Country near Grevillea Creek (Callide Valley District).*

Bales used for seed cotton are returned to the grower.

With improved methods of planting and spacing, the cost of harvesting the crop should not exceed 1½d. per lb. It will be noted from these figures that the grower, who takes proper care of his crop, is assured of a fair return whilst the present arrangement exists—i.e., an assured and payable price. Obviously, a person who effects his own cultivation, and might reasonably be expected to harvest at least a portion of the crop, will benefit to the extent of the money thus saved.



### Crop Demonstration Farms.

In order to provide settlers with information as to the best crops to grow, and the most suitable system of farming to adopt



*Sheep at Mulgildie (Upper Burnett District).*

on the areas for settlement, the Government has taken steps to establish two Demonstration Farms, one in the Callide Valley District, near Prairie, and the other in the Upper Burnett District, on Monal Creek. Some preliminary work is now being carried



*Burnett River Bridge at Gayndah (Upper Burnett District).*



out in the latter district on several small demonstration plots at Mulgildie, in the neighbourhood of Monto (Upper Burnett District). On one of these a block of 40 acres of typical scrub land has been developed to indicate how similar areas may be readily put under artificial grass (Rhodes grass) for dairying purposes. Dairying operations have been successfully conducted in districts with soil and climatic conditions similar to those existing upon these areas, therefore further experimental dairy farms are unnecessary.

Special strains of cotton are to be developed at the demonstration farms to provide for the future requirements of settlers in each locality. In this way regular supplies of pure seed true



*Good Dairying Country on Three Moon Creek (Upper Burnett District).*

to type, and of a high standard of quality, can be maintained. Spacing, rotation, cultivation, and other tests are also being provided for, so that definite information may be available. These demonstration farms will thus be a means of assisting in the development of agriculture in each new settlement area.

### **Mineralogical Possibilities.**

Over the whole of the south-western portion of the Upper Burnett District granites and other allied igneous rocks exist. In the northern portion, though granite still exists, the predominant rocks are an old series of slates, sandstones, limestones, and schistose rocks. These rocks overlies the granites, and, in many parts of the field, carry economic mineral deposits, as



evidenced by the several mineral fields which have been proclaimed. There is a general absence of the younger coal formations in this area until proceeding north to the Callide coal areas.

The southern portion of the Callide Valley District is mainly granite. This gives way to an old series of schists, limestones, and claystones, with intruded granite on the east and north. Situated centrally in the north-western portion of the area are shales and sandstones carrying coals. The southern end of the Callide coal measures are to be observed at the northern end of this area. The areas resemble each other in many respects, each having part of a similar mineral belt, containing fertile stretches of country and much mineral wealth.



*Abandoned Perseverance Gold Mines, St. John's Creek, Eidsvold  
(Upper Burnett District).*

Minerals of various kinds have been proved to exist in different parts of the Upper Burnett and Callide Valley Districts. Years ago a great deal of gold was won from the fields in the Upper Burnett area, particularly from the Eidsvold, St John's Creek, Monal, and Cania and Kroombit fields. Though gold was first discovered in the fifties in the Eidsvold district, it was not until the eighties that mining operations assumed big proportions. For a number of years Eidsvold was the scene of much activity, and was a town of more than ordinary importance.



When mining on this field was in a flourishing condition the town had a population of several thousands. Large quantities of gold were produced for a number of years, the best returns for several years being—13,310 fine oz. in 1889; 13,597 fine oz. in 1890; 9,159 fine oz. in 1891; and 12,639 fine oz. in 1892. From the last-named year the annual production gradually diminished from thousands of fine oz. to tens of fine oz. until it became nil. For the past thirteen years very little gold has been unearthed on the field. To-day the town has a population of only a few hundreds. The greater portion of the mining machinery has been removed to other fields or sold. A few poppet-heads and huge mullock-heaps still remain on the field to serve as a reminder of Eidsvold's vanished glory. The total amount of gold won on the Eidsvold field to date is 97,679 fine oz.



*View of the Cania Gorge (Upper Burnett District).*

In the nineties the Monal goldfield boomed for several years, and had a population of 500. On several occasions the production exceeded 2,000 fine oz. annually. On the Cania and Kroombit fields alluvial gold was found in the seventies in fairly large quantities by a fairly large community of miners. Gold was also found in payable quantities on the Monal, Barmundoo, and Mount Rainbow fields. For a number of years the Mount Cannindah mine produced fairly large quantities of copper, but operations were discontinued some years ago owing to a slump in the market for copper.



Boring operations for water in the Upper Burnett District have disclosed the existence of coal seams. Copper, silver, manganese, &c., have been found in other parts of the District, but so far nothing worth speaking of has been done in the way of developmental work. To fully test the mineralogical possibilities of the Upper Burnett and Callide Valley Districts would, no doubt, be a costly undertaking, but it is quite within the range of possibility that it would prove a profitable proposition in the end. To say the least of it, it is remarkable how the gold petered out so suddenly on the different fields, particularly at Eidsvold and Monal.



*Government Boring Plant at Cania (Upper Burnett District).*

### **Timber Resources.**

New settlers in the Upper Burnett and Callide Valley Districts are not likely to be handicapped through a shortage of timber for building and fencing purposes. There is an abundance of hardwoods and a fair amount of softwoods to be found in most parts of the Districts. A good percentage of the trees are of large size. On the Dawes Range there is a large forest of pine. There are a large number of timber reserves in the Districts; also several State forests,





1. Well-grassed Apple-tree Flats at Mulgildie. 2. Crossing over the Burnett River. (Both in Upper Burnett District.)



### Proposed Railway System.

The proposal of the Government to bring the Upper Burnett and Callide Valley Districts into direct railway communication with the ports of Gladstone, Rockhampton, and Maryborough is calculated to do a great deal towards making its closer settlement a pronounced success from the outset. It will also be the means of providing a big incentive to intending settlers to select land in the favoured areas in large numbers. The ports referred to will also receive incalculable benefit through being given direct railway communication with the Districts in question. This refers particularly to Gladstone, which has harbour facilities second to none on the Queensland coast, at least. The



*Railway Construction Camp at Many Peaks (Central Queensland).*

connection of the aforementioned ports by railway involves an estimated expenditure of about £2,000,000 in the construction of 217 miles. The lines are now well under way from three points—Mundubbera to Monto, 66 miles; Many Peaks to Monto, 45 miles; and Rannes to Monto, 106 miles. When the proposed township at Monto becomes an accomplished fact, it will be 103 miles by rail from Gladstone, 204 miles from Urangan (the port of Maryborough), and 210 miles from Port Alma (the port of Rockhampton). So far as the Callide Valley country is concerned, it will be much nearer the port of Rockhampton than that of Gladstone when railway communication is established.



### Experience of Settlers.

In many respects, the character of the land in and around Mundubbera and Eidsvold, particularly on the Binjour and Gurgeena Plateaux and in the Hollywell Scrub and on the Grosvenor Flats, is similar to that to be thrown open for closer settlement in the Upper Burnett areas; therefore, the writer of this book has selected a number of the most successful agriculturists in these districts in order to demonstrate, by their experiences, the possibilities of the land. Though the settlers have not, by any means, had a bed of roses to lie upon since they engaged in agricultural pursuits in the localities referred



*Successful Settler's Home in the Upper Burnett District.*

to, still, despite the fact that a great number of them had no previous experience of farming or dairying, a good percentage of them have weathered the initial storms of adversity, and are now on a fair way towards obtaining, at least, a reasonable amount of comfort and independence out of their operations. Strange to say, many of the settlers who started operations with the least capital have made the most successful agriculturists. What the settlers in the localities referred to have done can also be done by all intending settlers in the Upper Burnett and Callide Valley areas, provided they make the most of their opportunities and do not shirk their responsibilities. The settler



who displays grit, determination, perseverance, and resourcefulness usually makes a success of his operations, and is enabled, as a result, to spend the evening of his life in peace and comfort.

Incidentally, it may be mentioned that a number of the settlers referred to below received material financial assistance from the Government at the outset of their operations, and were thus enabled to effect necessary improvements on their holdings and to purchase stock, &c.

Mr. J. E. Horn, of Springburn Farm, Hollywell Scrub, near Eidsvold, was a carpenter when he selected an agricultural farm of 240 acres about six years ago. The selection was densely



*Crop of Maize near Coomingleah (Upper Burnett District).*

covered with vine and brigalow scrub. He cleared portion of the farm, and erected a house in which to live. Having only a small amount of ready cash, he was not in a position to start agricultural operations from the outset, but was compelled to follow his trade. After saving some money from his labours as a carpenter, he decided to go in for dairying, and with this object in view he purchased a small herd of grade Illawarras. The dairy farm was worked on the half-share system, and good returns were obtained therefrom. On several occasions the milkers averaged about 40s. per head per month during the best months of the milking period. The general monthly average,





1, *Felling Scrub for Cotton-growing near Wowan (Dawson Valley Line).* 2, *Rhodes Grass on Cleared Scrub Land at Glen Rae, near Mundubbera (Upper Burnett District).*



however, was about 20s. per head. The selection was largely planted with Rhodes grass, which was used for feed and seed purposes. Small areas of maize, lucerne, English and sweet potatoes, cotton, peanuts, tomatoes, vegetables, &c., are also grown annually, and the returns therefrom are, on the whole, satisfactory. The Tamworth-Berkshire strain of pigs are bred for sale. A pit silo on the farm is used for the making of ensilage from maize and Rhodes grass. Mr. Horn is now comfortably housed, and is well satisfied with the results of his labours as an agriculturist, and has added a 200-acre perpetual lease selection to his holding.



*A Settler's First Home.*

Mr. F. Horn, of the Jungle Farm, Hollywell Scrub, near Eidsvold, was originally a bush worker. Ten years ago he selected 183 acres of dense scrub. A small area was cleared for crops and a home was erected. A fair amount of success attended his agricultural operations. Mr. Horn has proved that the land will grow maize, cotton, English and sweet potatoes, grapes, peanuts, tomatoes, and pipe tobacco. He has about 70 acres planted with Rhodes grass, portion of which he harvests for the seed. Last year Mr. Horn obtained 2,604 lb. of cotton from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  acres.

Mr. T. West, of Grey Lynn Farm, Hollywell Scrub, near Eidsvold, is a returned soldier with previous agricultural experi-



ence. On his farm of 167 acres he and his father are carrying on dairying successfully with grade Shorthorns and Jerseys. The milkers average about 30s. per head monthly for cream. Various kinds of crops are grown, principally maize and cotton.

Mr. L. W. Grevsmuhl, of Ardath Farm, Hollywell Scrub, near Eidsvold, was a stockman when he took up 160 acres of dense scrub four years ago. He has 150 acres cleared, and 8 acres have been planted with different kinds of crops—maize and cotton chiefly. The greater portion of his attention has been devoted to dairying. The herd, which comprises grade Shorthorns, Jerseys, and Friesians, average about 20s. per head monthly. There are 140 acres under Rhodes grass.



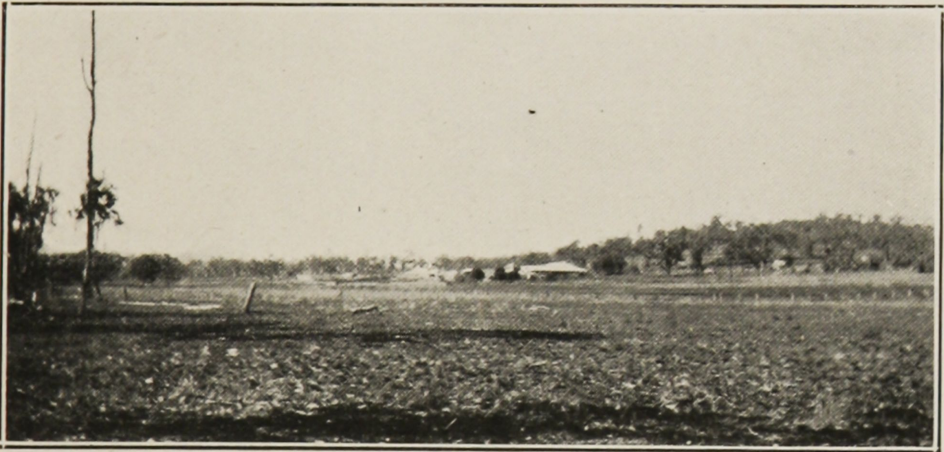
*The Boyne River at Boynewood, Mundubbera (Upper Burnett District).*

Mr. J. Turnbull, of Wilgas Farm, Hollywell Scrub, near Eidsvold, was a railway porter in England before he came out to Queensland as an immigrant in 1900 with £50 after paying his passage money. For three years he was a bush worker, and then he took up land near Wondai, where he engaged in mixed farming. Subsequently he sold out and selected his present farm of 520 acres, on which he has been mixed farming for about six years. He has 50 acres cleared of the dense scrub, 25 acres of which is under crops, such as maize, wheat, barley, broom millet, cotton, &c. Dairying is also carried on systematically, and on an average



forty grade Shorthorns and Jerseys are milked daily. The milkers return about 20s. per head monthly on an average. Berkshire pigs are bred and fattened up for market.

Mr. T. Wood, of Oakfield Farm, Grosvenor Flats, near Eidsvold, was formerly a mechanic. When he selected 234 acres of open forest on the bank of the Burnett River ten years ago he had only a small amount of money in his purse. He had, however, plenty of grit, determination, perseverance, and initiative. He has 24 acres under crops, which are grown by irrigation. The water is lifted from the river by means of a pump, and transferred to the farm by gravitation through galvanised-iron piping. The spray system of irrigation is also used. Mr. Wood, who is very



*The Homestead at Rawbelle (Upper Burnett District).*

methodical in all his operations, is making a good living as a mixed farmer. The crops grown successfully, as a rule, include—Maize, English and sweet potatoes, cotton, oats, wheat, Sudan grass, tomatoes, vegetables, melons, pumpkins, &c. Last year he harvested 22 cwt. of cotton from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres. Grade Ayrshires and Jerseys are milked, and, taken on the whole, pay well. The cereal crops are cut for hay, for which Mr. Wood has a good market.

Mr. T. A. Chapman, a carrier, Eidsvold, is demonstrating in a small but very emphatic way what can be done under dry-farming conditions. On his miner's homestead lease he is growing small plots of wheat, lucerne, English potatoes, Sudan grass, vegetables, &c.



Mr. G. P. Gruver, of Paradise Gardens, Eidsvold, is one of the pioneer miners of the locality. He has 2 acres under citrus, vine, stone, and pip fruits, also vegetables and peanuts. The crops are marketed locally, and Mr. Gruver makes a decent livelihood.

Mr. F. A. Lieberam, Gurgeena Plateau, Mundubbera, was a labourer in Germany before he settled in the district nearly thirteen years ago. In good seasons he has averaged over 60 bushels of maize to the acre. He has also had one or two good returns from small plots of cotton. The best and most regular returns are obtained from dairying. The herd consists of Short-horns and Ayrshires, the best individual yields monthly being about 30s. Berkshire and Tamworth pigs are bred.



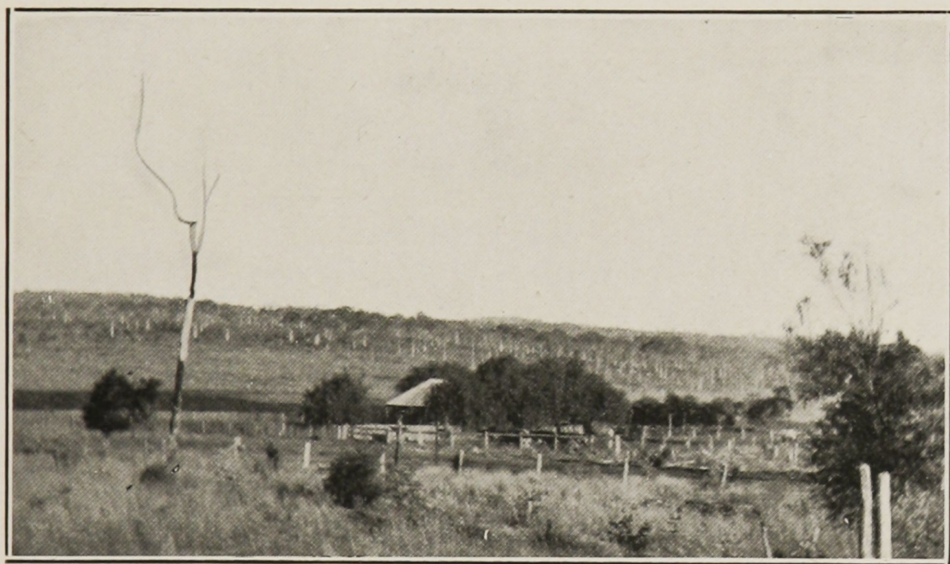
*Dairy Cattle at Mundubbera (Upper Burnett District).*

Mr. C. T. Meredith, Gurgeena Plateau, Mundubbera, was formerly a storeman in a produce store in Brisbane. Then his father gave him a start on a sugar-cane farm in the Isis district. For a number of years he had very little success, but eventually he did well; subsequently he sold his cane farm and took up his present holding. Having cleared it of the dense scrub, he planted a large area of it with Rhodes grass as feed for the stock. For several years he got splendid returns from his maize crop, the best yield being over 70 bushels to the acre. A small area of English potatoes also gave a good yield per acre. For the past five years he has been dairying with a Shorthorn-Jersey



strain, which number sixty-five. Ordinarily, he has about thirty-five cows in milk at a time, and the best individual monthly returns therefrom average about 40s. Mr. Meredith has done well in the district, and he and his wife and family of six children are now happy and contented. They have had to face hard times, but matters look more cheerful for them now. For a number of years past Mr. Meredith has been a member of the Mundubbera Shire Council, and is also identified with several other public bodies.

Mr. G. Meredith, Gurgeena Plateau, Mundubbera, was a carrier in Brisbane before he took up his selection three years ago. He had only enough money at the time to pay the first



*Scrub Land at Glen Rae, Mundubbera (Upper Burnett District).*

year's rent on his farm, but he had plenty of pluck and energy. The holding was soon cleared of a great deal of the dense scrub and got ready for crops. About 60 acres were planted with Rhodes grass, and smaller areas with maize, English potatoes, &c. On several occasions he has got good yields from maize, the best being 50 bushels to the acre. A small plot of cotton also gave a good return. A grade Jersey herd of fifty, of which about twenty are in milk at a time, return about 40s. per head monthly during the best periods of the year. Berkshire and Tamworth pigs are bred on a small scale. Mr. Meredith is well satisfied with his operations on the farm; he likes the free, independent, and healthy life, and says that he and his wife and five children are happy and contented.





COTTON GINNERIES.

1. Gladstone. 2. Rockhampton. 3. Gayndah. 4. Wowan.



Mr. W. R. Frost, of Aberdeen Farm, Gurgeena Plateau, Mundubbera, is a returned soldier. For several years he was employed in a sugar-mill in the Isis district. When he selected his present farm he had £75. A good deal of his selection has been cleared of the dense scrub, and made available for cultivation. There are 90 acres under Rhodes grass, which is used as feed for stock. From 10 to 15 acres are planted with maize every year, besides smaller areas under English potatoes and other crops. The best yield from maize was 60 bushels to the acre. Cotton-growing is also occupying the attention of Mr. Frost. The best returns on the farm are realised from dairying. The



*Concrete Silo and Overhead Tank on a Calliungal Farm  
(Dawson Valley Line).*

herd consists of grade Jerseys and Shorthorns. The best cheque for cream from individual cows has been 40s. monthly. Middle Yorkshire pigs are bred. Mr. Frost is now in comfortable circumstances, but he has had a great uphill fight to attain this state of affairs.

Mr. H. J. Bellert, Gurgeena Plateau, Mundubbera, was formerly a mine manager in the Torbanlea district before becoming a general farmer and dairyman. He started about three years ago with £200. Despite his inexperience as an agriculturist, he has harvested good crops of maize. About 40 acres of his selection are under Rhodes grass. Cotton-growing is also



claiming some of his attention. Usually he has about twenty cows in milk at a time. He has decided to go in for the breeding of the Friesian strain of cattle, and has already secured a good bull. The best return from his milkers was nearly 40s. per cow per month. Mr. Bellert likes the free and independent life he is living, and takes a hopeful look at matters generally.

Mr. A. J. C. Mathieson, Nantglyn, Mundubbera, is one of the most experienced agriculturists in the district. He, however, started in only a small way ten years ago, and has gradually



*First Crop of Cotton on recently Burnt-off Scrub Land near Wowan (Dawson Valley Line).*

built up a profitable business for himself, wife, and family of five children. As a rule, he has about 20 acres under crops at a time. Maize is the crop mostly grown, though cotton is also cultivated. He has a large area under Rhodes grass. About forty grade Shorthorns are milked in the season by machine. The best individual monthly returns for cream have exceeded 40s. Berkshire pigs are bred. All the farming implements used are of modern design.



Mr. L. Schroder, Nantglyn, Mundubbera, was a cabinet-maker in Germany before he took up agricultural pursuits in Queensland. It is twelve years ago since he selected his farm. He had only enough money at the time to pay the first year's rent. He is doing well now as a general farmer and dairyman, and has a wife and seven children, their ages ranging from twenty-two to six years. Mr. Schroder has grown maize and cotton successfully. His dairy herd consists of Shorthorns and Friesians principally, and these average about 20s. per cow all the year round. Occasionally, individual monthly returns are about 40s. Berkshire and Middle Yorkshire pigs are bred.



*Juvenile Tillers of the Soil at the Mundubbera State School  
(Upper Burnett District).*

Mr. P. Roy, Strathearn, Mundubbera, arrived from Perthshire (Scotland) about twelve years ago as a nominated immigrant with only a few pounds sterling in his pocket. On arrival in Brisbane he selected his present farm, which was slightly infested with prickly-pear at the time. After clearing portion of his land, and effecting necessary improvements, he obtained work at fencing, road-making, and on the railway. The money obtained by these means enabled him eventually to devote the whole of his attention to farming operations. He has, as a rule, about 36 acres under crops every year. The crops grown include maize, wheat, potatoes, pumpkins, cotton,



&c. When normal climatic conditions prevailed good returns were obtained. Dairying is his standby. The herd comprises grade Ayrshires, and about twenty-four cows are in milk at a time. The best monthly returns range from 30s. to 40s. per cow. Berkshire and Middle Yorkshire pigs are bred. Mr. Roy has made steady progress since he settled in the district.

Mr. T. Tong, Derra, Mundubbera, arrived in Queensland in 1915 from Wales with very little capital. He was, however, a farmer. At the start he worked on a dairy farm for a few months, and then engaged in dairying on the share system in New South Wales. His next job was in a sugar-mill on the



*Thrashing Rhodes Grass for Seed on Mr. G. H. Cary's Glen Iris Farm, Gayndah (Upper Burnett District).*

Richmond River (New South Wales). He spent three years in New South Wales before he came to Queensland and took up his farm. He lost no time in clearing the land and getting it ready for crops. Maize was principally grown, and good yields were frequently obtained therefrom. He had a large area under Rhodes grass, and on one occasion he made £250 from the sale of seed. As a rule he sells about £130 worth of seed annually. He has a good Illawarra herd of dairy cattle, and usually about sixty are milked daily. The best yield per cow monthly is about 40s. The Berkshire-Middle Yorkshire cross of pigs are bred. English potatoes and grapes are also grown. Mr. Tong's



first home was a bark humpy, but to-day he has a very comfortable house. He had £130 when he started in Queensland, and is now in very comfortable circumstances.

Mr. W. A. C. Carter, of Abbott's Farm, Derra, Mundubbera, came from Hertfordshire (England) as assisted immigrant in 1910 with about £300 in capital. Previously he had been a fishmonger and greengrocer in England. On arrival in Queensland with his wife he first took up a prickly-pear selection in the Woodmillar Scrub, Gayndah, but after a few years he decided to select land in the Mundubbera district. A large area was planted with Rhodes grass, portion of which was harvested for seed. Maize has been the principal crop grown every year, and on the whole fairly good yields have been



*Well-grassed Country at Wakeful (Upper Burnett District).*

obtained. Cotton is also being grown. Mr. Carter has done well in dairying with grade Illawarras, about fifty of which are generally in milk at a time. The best returns have been over 40s. per cow per month. Berkshire pigs are bred. Though he had an uphill fight at the start, he is now well satisfied with his lot, and looks forward to better results in future. He has five children, whose ages range from eighteen years to about six months. Mr. and Mrs. Carter revisited England and Scotland a few years ago on a holiday trip.

Mr. F. C. Peterson, Derra, Mundubbera, came from London in 1912, where he followed the occupation of a coppersmith engineer. For about a year he followed his trade in New South



Wales; then he came on to Queensland and selected his present farm. At the outset, he experienced much adversity, but he fought against it bravely, and eventually he managed to make steady headway. His first home was a galvanised iron humpy, but at the present time he and his wife and four children are living in a very comfortable dwelling. He has had about 60 acres under crops at a time, mostly maize, pumpkins, and sorghum. Cotton is also grown. Satisfactory yields of maize have been obtained on several occasions. Mr. Peterson has usually about fifty cows in milk during the season, and the best returns average over 20s. per cow monthly.

Mr. H. Vicary, Boynewood, Mundubbera, was previously farming on the Darling Downs before he settled on the banks of the Boyne River. He is well satisfied with his outlook. Maize



*Ploughing with Motor-Tractor near Gayndah (Upper Burnett District).*

is the chief crop grown, about 20 acres being planted every year. The best returns per acre have been about 30 bushels. Cotton is also grown, and he hopes to do well out of this crop. About twenty grade Illawarras are milked daily, the best cheque for cream therefrom being about 40s. per cow monthly. Berkshire pigs are bred.

Mr. S. Moyle, of Riverview, Derra, Mundubbera, was a carrier in New South Wales before he settled in Queensland with a few hundred pounds sterling to his credit in the bank. For the past ten years he has been engaged as a general farmer and dairyman, and has been doing well. The crops raised annually include maize, barley, and cotton. The dairy herd

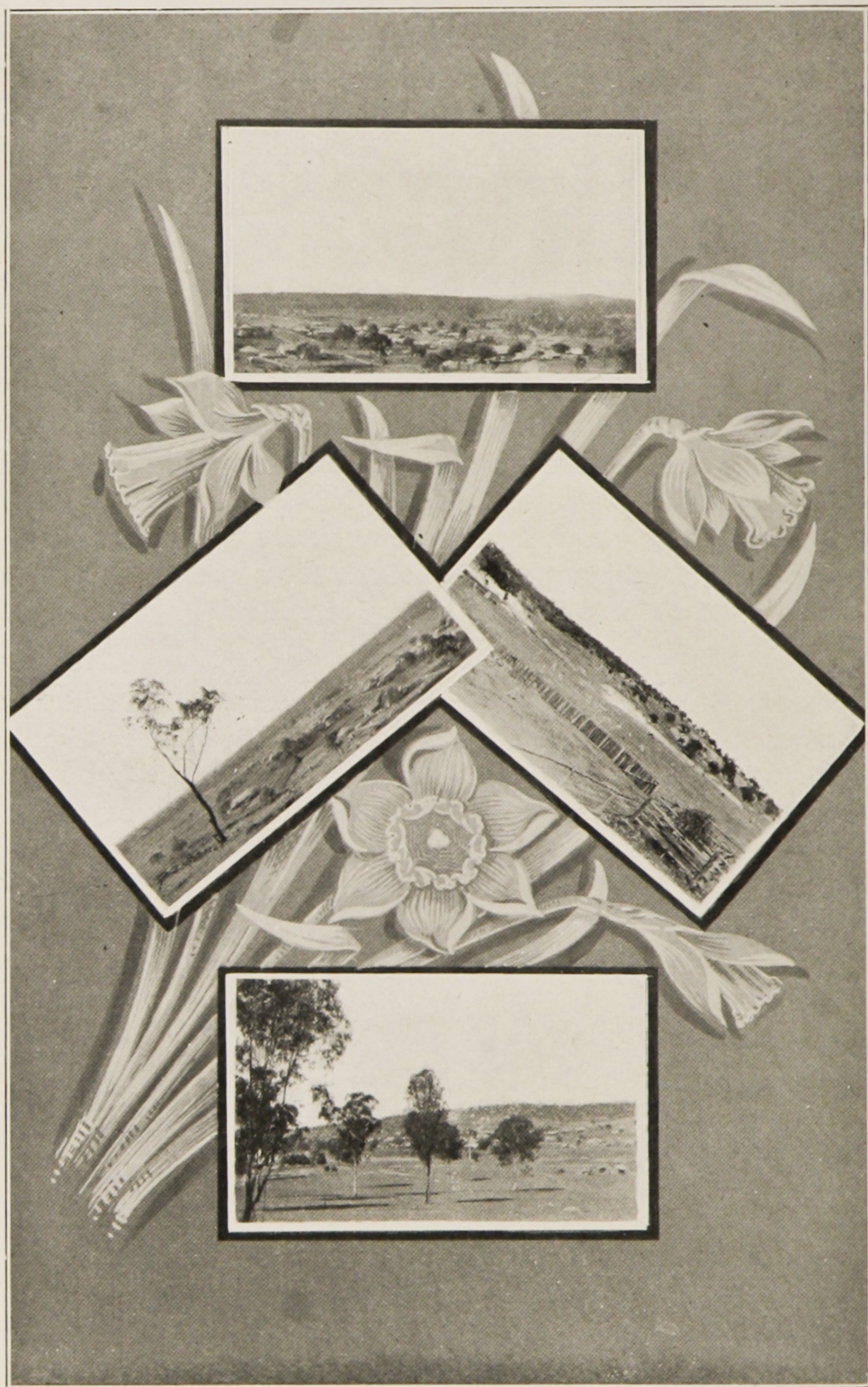


consists of grade Shorthorns, and about twenty-seven cows are in milk at a time. The best monthly return from these is about 40s. per cow. The Berkshire-Middle Yorkshire strain of pigs is bred.

Mr. C. Mohr, Derra, Mundubbera, for a time was a gold miner, and then a farmer in New South Wales, prior to coming to Queensland ten years ago. He had a couple of hundred pounds sterling when he took up a selection in the Mundubbera district. About 35 acres have been cleared ready for the plough, and as a rule he has 25 acres under crops every year, principally maize. The best yield of maize per acre was 30 bushels. From about 2 acres of broom millet he obtained  $1\frac{3}{4}$  tons, for which he received £43 10s. per ton in Brisbane. The return from 3 acres of cotton in 1921 was £104 16s. 1d. There are usually about twenty-four grade Shorthorn cows in milk at a time, the best monthly return from each of them being over 40s. Berkshire pigs are bred. Mr. Mohr is well satisfied with his prospects.

Messrs. Muir Bros., of Gladsmuir, Boynewood, Mundubbera, have been in the district fourteen years. Originally the farm was taken up by Mr. W. Muir, who was previously a farmer in Scotland. In addition to general farming and dairying, they are breeding beef Shorthorns and Herefords and draught horses on a grazing farm in the Hawkwood district. Mr. Muir, senr., had £500 when he and his wife and four sons arrived in Queensland. They have now a large tract of country and are doing well. When the great war broke out the father and two sons volunteered for service. One of the sons was killed in an engagement in Palestine, and the father was wounded. Since the war the operations on the land have been carried out by the three surviving sons in the most successful manner. There are about 100 acres under cultivation, including 40 acres under Rhodes grass, portion of which is cut annually for seed. About 20 acres of maize are planted every year, besides panicum, lucerne, Sudan grass, potatoes (English and sweet), cotton, &c. Milking machines have been installed for the carrying on of the dairying. The herd consists of grade Illawarras, the most milked at a time being about seventy-five. The milkers average about 40s. each during the best months of the milking period. As high as 55s. for individual cows has been obtained for some





*Panoramic Views of Eidsvold and its Abandoned Gold Mines  
(Upper Burnett District).*



months. Messrs. Muir Bros. are one of the largest suppliers of cream to the local butter factory. Berkshire pigs are bred. The family are now in very comfortable circumstances, and are satisfied with their outlook generally. They have one of the best equipped farms in the district. Mr. Muir, senr., who is prominent in local public affairs, has revisited Scotland twice with his wife during the past few years. He and his wife and sons intend to pay another visit to Scotland at an early date.

Mr. W. G. Parker, of Bedford, Boynewood, Mundubbera, came out to Queensland as a nominated immigrant in 1911 from Bedford (England), where he was employed as foreman of works by the local corporation. He was accompanied by his wife, two



*Crop of Rhodes Grass at the State School, Gurgeena Plateau  
(Upper Burnett District).*

sons, and three daughters. When he first arrived in Queensland he obtained work on a farm on the Darling Downs. After gaining experience of farm work, fencing, &c., he selected his present farm, but he had only a small amount of money in his pocket when he did so. Having cleared his land and effected necessary improvements, he secured contracts for fencing, &c., from the local shire council and several farmers. The money acquired by these means enabled him to increase his area, and put portion of his land under cultivation. At the start of his operations he lived in a small galvanised-iron structure; to-day he has a very comfortable home and a farm equipped with all the most modern implements. The area under crops every year aggregates 50 acres. These comprise maize, panicum, Sudan grass, cotton,



peanuts, &c. Maize and cotton are the principal crops grown, the best returns from the former being 40 bushels to the acre. Mr. Parker started dairying with two cows; he has now eighty head of grade Jerseys and Shorthorns. The best monthly return from each of the milkers has been about 40s. Berkshire pigs are bred. Mr. Parker has re-visited England once since his arrival in the district, and intends doing so again shortly with his wife and family. He is thoroughly satisfied with his agricultural operations, and says that Queensland offers great opportunities to all who are willing to work. The life is free, independent, and healthy.



*Well-grassed Country at Rawbelle (Upper Burnett District),  
showing beef cattle in the background.*

Mr. C. J. Matthews, of Torvale, Boynewood, Mundubbera, was for years a butcher in the district before engaging in agricultural pursuits. He took up his present farm five years ago with capital totalling £200. A good area of his country has been cleared, and is annually planted with maize, pumpkins, barley, wheat, oats, and panicum, which are chiefly used as feed for his dairy herd. He is doing well as a dairyman, and has about twenty-two grade Jerseys in milk at a time. In January, 1921, fifteen cows gave a return of over £50. Berkshire pigs are bred. From an acre of cotton in 1921 he realised £20. He has about 10 acres under cotton for the present season.



Mr. J. W. Parker, Boynewood, Mundubbera, is a returned soldier, and is a son of Mr. W. G. Parker of the same district. He has a large area of country and has a very comfortable home and splendidly equipped farm. About 60 acres have been cleared ready for the plough. Every year he has fully 45 acres under crops. These consist of maize, English potatoes, barley, cotton, vegetables, &c. The best yield per acre for maize was 35 bushels. About 50 acres have been planted with Rhodes grass as feed for the stock. About forty grade Shorthorns are milked in the flush of the season, and the monthly returns therefrom are highly



*Cotton Plantation near Gayndah (Upper Burnett District).*

satisfactory. Mr. Parker intends to instal milking machines shortly. Berkshire pigs are bred.

Messrs. Meyer Bros., Boyne River, Mundubbera, came from Switzerland ten years ago with a small sum of money in their possession. Prior to their arrival they were agriculturists. Their farm aggregates over 400 acres, of which 250 acres are under Rhodes grass. About 3 tons of seed have been harvested therefrom, and sold at a good price. Every year 50 acres are planted with maize, and frequently give good yields. Cotton had been planted for the current season. The dairy herd of Shorthorns



and Ayrshires number 180, and in January, 1921, the return from twenty-three milkers was £60. Messrs. Meyer Bros. have decided to instal milking machines.

Mr. T. Benholm, of Blantyre Ferme, Boyne River, Mundubbera, was a coachman in Scotland before he came to Queensland as a nominated immigrant ten years ago. He has done well since he came to the district, and has a very comfortable home. Maize is principally grown as feed for the stock. A small area has been planted with cotton. Portion of the area under Rhodes grass is cut for seed and sold. Mr. Benholm has four sons and four daughters, most of whom are grown up. Three of the sons



*View of Three Moon Creek at Cania (Upper Burnett District).*

have farms of their own. Usually there are thirty-five grade Shorthorns in milk during the season, and the monthly return therefrom averages over 40s. per cow. Middle Yorkshire pigs are bred.

Mr. S. B. Harris, of Morton Corbett, Mundubbera, was a farmer in Scotsdale (Tasmania) before he settled in the district with £150 to his credit in the bank in 1911. He is much impressed with Queensland conditions. He worked on the Mundubbera railway line before he started operations on his farm. He has been engaged in dairying since 1915, and has also grown small areas of farm produce. Rhodes grass is grown as feed for the



stock, but portion of it is cut for seed and sold. Other crops cultivated include maize and cotton. The Illawarra herd gave a return of over 40s. per cow during the best months. Improved Berkshire pigs are bred. Mr. Harris has a family of eight children, whose ages range from fourteen years to under twelve months.

Mr. J. F. Reinke, of Roselea, Mundubbera, is one of the most experienced agriculturists in the district. He has been five years on his present splendidly equipped farm, but he was previously farming on the Darling Downs and on the Boyne River. His home is one of the most commodious in the district. Though maize, pumpkins, lucerne, barley, oats, Japanese millet, &c., are



*Messrs. Spoor and Sons' Dairy Farm, Mundubbera (Upper Burnett District).*

grown as feed for the stock, dairying is Mr. Reinke's principal occupation. He has a splendid pedigreed Illawarra stud, and periodically he sells the young stock at good prices to other dairymen in the district and elsewhere. Mr. Reinke is also a successful exhibitor at the various agricultural shows with his stock. The best return for cream from fifteen cows was £45 in January, 1921. The herd average about 35s. per head every month throughout the year. There is a pit silo on the farm, maize being used for the making of ensilage. Milking machines are to be installed. A small area has been planted with cotton. A few sheep of the Merino-Lincoln cross and Berkshire pigs are bred for home consumption. Mr. Reinke is also a breeder of pedigreed White Leghorn and Rhode Island Red poultry, for



both of which he finds a good market. Large quantities of eggs are sold annually as settings for breeding purposes and for human consumption. Mr. Reinke made his first start on the Darling Downs with only a few pounds sterling in his pocket. To-day he is one of the most prosperous agriculturists in Queensland. He says that there is a good living to be made in the district by everyone, provided he is willing to work hard.

Messrs. Spoor and Sons, of Aurora Stud Farm, Mundubbera, have demonstrated in the most conclusive manner what can be done by scientific farming. They arrived from Holland about nine years ago with very little money in their pockets; in point of fact, a fellow Dutch immigrant generously paid their passages out to Australia. They repaid the debt by working on their friend's farm for six months. Then they selected a small block of land, and started dairying in a small way by buying a few cows and renting others. It was an uphill struggle, but gradually success attended their efforts. Five years ago Messrs. Spoor and Sons established a purebred Illawarra stud. They have twenty-five pedigreed cows and two bulls, and every year they are successful exhibitors at the various country shows. They have sold young stud bulls at satisfactory prices. The best monthly cheque for cream from eighteen cows was £48. The stud stock are hand-fed with ensilage made from maize. There is a reinforced concrete silo, with a capacity of 105 tons, on the farm. The area under crops every year is about 50 acres—maize, 25 acres (for feed and grain); Sudan grass, 10 acres; and a few acres each of wheat, oats, lucerne, pumpkins, peanuts, and cotton. Three cuttings have been obtained from the Sudan grass during the year, and from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres of cotton the return was £33. About 20 acres are also under Rhodes grass, which is used as feed. They have also 15 acres under cotton. A few years ago Angora goats were bred for their mohair and mutton. Mr. and Mrs. Spoor have ten boys and girls, five of whom were born in Queensland. The farm is one of the best equipped in the district, and the home is remarkable for its picturesque design and inside comfort. The Spoor family are happy and contented, and do not regret settling in the district. In fact, Mr. Spoor, senr., said that his worst dream is—"When he thinks he is back in Holland again without a return ticket to Queensland."



Mr. P. R. Spoor, of Raemah-Ajam, Mundubbera, is also a very successful settler. His farm is only a short distance away from that of his brother. Eleven years ago he and his wife and two sons arrived in Queensland from Holland as nominated immigrants with only £50. In Holland he followed the occupation of a milk vendor and butter and cheese maker. When he took up his present farm of 72 acres he had only £10 in his pocket. While he carried on agricultural operations, his two sons obtained employment in the district. He raised crops for several years, and managed to pay his way. About five years ago he decided to go in for poultry-raising. That this has proved to be a very profitable undertaking is exemplified by



*Mount Target, St. John's Creek, Eidsvold (Upper Burnett District).*

the fact that he sells 200 dozen eggs monthly in the Brisbane market. There is also a good demand for his purebred fowls, which comprise White and Brown Leghorns, Chinese Silkies, &c., and number 200. The fowl runs are well laid out, and the houses are of quaint design—Dutch, Chinese, and Australian. The home is also of Dutch design. All the buildings on the farm were designed and erected by Mr. Spoor. Hundreds of chickens are raised by means of incubators every year. Maize, Kaffir corn, sunflower, &c., are grown as feed for the poultry. Mr. Spoor has no wish to return to Holland to live; his only regret is that he did not come out to Queensland when he was a young man. He is now comfortable, happy, and independent.





CO-OPERATIVE FACTORIES, &C.

1, Gayndah Butter Factory. 2, Mundubbera Butter Factory. 3, Rockhampton Butter Factory, Butchery, and Fruit Cold Stores. 4, Wowan Butter Factory.



Mr. A. Robertson, of Cathkin Park, Glen Rae, Mundubbera, came from Scotland about ten years ago with about £300. Together with Messrs. W. Kirkwood (nephew) and A. Sami, he is doing well as a general farmer, dairyman, and stock-raiser. When he first settled in the district he was forced to seek outside employment in order to meet his liabilities. His farm of 450 acres was lightly infested with prickly-pear when he took it up, but it is now free from the pest. He has also a grazing farm of 2,800 acres on the old Cooranga run. There are 30 acres under Rhodes grass, and every year the area under other crops totals about 40 acres, of which 30 acres are maize.



*Forest Country on the Don River at Deeford  
(Dawson Valley Line).*

The best average return per acre from this crop was 30 bushels. Smaller areas of Sudan grass, wheat, oats, barley, panicum, and peanuts are also grown successfully. From 10 acres of cotton he obtained a yield of 3 tons. For the 1923 season the area under this crop has been considerably increased. The dairy herd is made up of grade Illawarras. The greatest number in milk at a time is sixty-two, and the best monthly yield from each of the cows was over 40s. Middle Yorkshire pigs are bred. Mr. Robertson says he is thoroughly satisfied with his outlook, and has no desire to go back to Scotland unless he has a return ticket to Queensland in his pocket.



Mr. W. Glynn, of Cooladrummon, Glen Rae, Mundubbera, has been in the district about ten years. He originally came from Ireland, where he was in the army, then in the Police Force, and later he worked on a dairy farm. When he arrived in Queensland as a nominated immigrant with his wife and two daughters he had £70. At first he worked on a farm in the Rosewood district. Then he selected his present farm, on which he has been dairying for seven years with a mixed herd of Jersey, Ayrshire, and Illawarra-Shorthorn cattle. There are fully fifty cows in milk at a time, the best monthly return from each ranging from 40s. to 60s. Mr. Glynn is a large supplier



*Cotton Plantation near Gayndah (Upper Burnett District).*

of cream to the local butter factory. There are usually 40 acres under various crops. The area under Rhodes grass aggregates 400 acres, portion of which is harvested for seed. Maize, Sudan grass, oats, and barley are grown as feed for the stock and for sale. About 20 acres had been planted with cotton. Mr. Glynn has had to face much adversity since he came to the district, but he now claims to be in very comfortable circumstances. He takes a hopeful look of the future.

Mr. C. F. Klaus, Glen Rae, Mundubbera, was, prior to his arrival in the district, a mixed farmer in the Esk district. Notwithstanding that he had limited capital when he selected



his farm four years ago, he has made good headway. He has had to work hard, but he is now reaping the fruits of his labours. Dairying has proved to be a profitable undertaking. He has a good herd of Jerseys, the best monthly return being about 40s. per head. On an average he has twenty-seven cows in milk at a time. Berkshire and Middle Yorkshire pigs are bred. There are 20 acres under Rhodes grass, and every year about 50 acres are planted with various crops—maize, oats, barley, Sudan grass, English potatoes, &c. A small area has been planted with cotton.

Mr. A. R. Hinze, Glen Rae, Mundubbera, came from the Logan district ten years ago with a little money and some farm implements and horses. After selecting his farm, he was forced



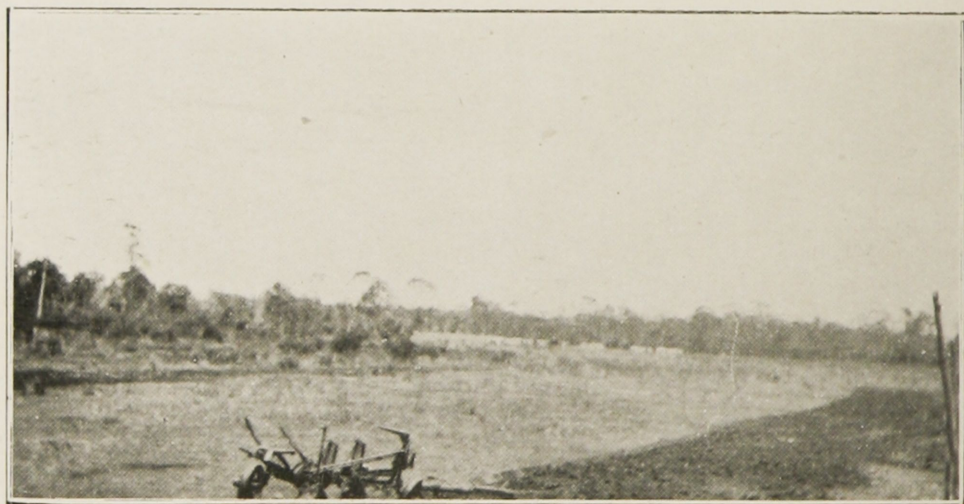
*Illawarra-Shorthorn Dairy Herd on Mr. G. H. Cary's Glen Iris Farm, Gayndah (Upper Burnett District).*

to take on odd jobs in order to earn sufficient money to keep things going. About 120 acres were planted with Rhodes grass, and portion of this was cut for seed and eventually sold. As a rule he has 10 acres under maize every year, and the best yield per acre has been 30 bushels. Other crops are also grown, principally for consumption on the farm. Mr. Hinze is also engaged in pig-raising on a small scale.

Mr. W. McLennan, of Rose Haugh, Riverleigh, Mundubbera, had only a few pounds sterling in his pocket after he had paid the first year's rent on his selection. Prior to his arrival in the district he had the lease of a dairy farm in the Murgon district. He, however, gained his agricultural experience in Scotland. At the commencement of his activities in the Mundubbera district he did a great deal of outside work, while his wife



and children carried on dairying on his farm. There are 200 acres under Rhodes grass, and fully forty bags of seed are harvested and sold annually. Generally there are 80 acres under crops every year, maize being the principal crop. From 40 acres in 1915 he averaged 80 bushels to the acre. A small plot of cotton yielded £28 per acre. Barley and potatoes (English and sweet) are also grown. The dairy herd is made up of Shorthorns, and the most in milk at any one period is forty-five. From forty cows he has received £70 during the best month of the year. Berkshire pigs are bred. Mr. McLennan has eight children, their ages ranging from nineteen to four years. He is now in a comfortable position, and takes a hopeful view of the future.



*Route of the Rannes-Monto Branch Line cleared of dense scrub.*

Mr. J. H. List, Malmoe, Mundubbera, was previously a saddler before he took on sugar-cane cultivation at Pialba. For a number of years he raised crops of sugar-cane, and then disposed of his farm in order to start dairying and mixed farming in the Mundubbera district. He purchased an improved farm, and at the commencement of his operations he was handicapped by a debt of £1,000. For three years he has had an uphill fight, but he has now nearly succeeded in paying off all his liabilities. His farm consists of 320 acres, half of which is under Rhodes grass. A small quantity of the last-named crop is cut for seed, which is sold every year. Maize and other crops are grown as feed for his stock. Lucerne, oats, and barley



are also to be grown. About 10 acres have been planted with cotton. From a mixed herd of thirty dairy cows in January, 1921, he received £70 for cream. Berkshire pigs are bred. Mr. List says that he has done better during his three years in the Mundubbera district than he did in ten years in Pialba.

Mr. P. J. Bolger, of Castilla, O Bil Bil, Mundubbera, was a farmer in Ireland before he selected his present farm eighteen years ago. When he arrived in Australia he had £300, but he



*Burnett River, Gayndah (Upper Burnett District).*

speculated in mining in West Australia unsuccessfully. Then he proceeded to New South Wales, where he worked as a cane-cutter for five years. Queensland was next visited, and he obtained a position in the Torrens Creek Meatworks (North Queensland) as a fireman. He had £100 in his possession when he arrived in Queensland. Subsequently, he took up 300 acres of forest land in the Mundubbera district on his own account, and a similar area in partnership with his father-in-law. At the



present time Mr. Bolger has an area of 1,000 acres. Every year there are about 25 acres under crops—maize, lucerne, rape, potatoes (English and sweet), wheat, Sudan grass, &c. Four cuttings have been obtained from the lucerne crop in a year, and two cuttings from the Sudan grass. For portion of the period in question the dairy herd were grazed on the lucerne and Sudan grass areas. The best return from maize was 90 bushels to the acre. Fifteen acres have been planted with cotton. Dairying is carried on successfully, the herd consisting of grade Jerseys and Illawarras. Usually there are forty-five in milk at a time, and the best monthly cheque obtained for



*Forest Country on the Don River at Deeford (Dawson Valley Line).*

cream was over 40s. per cow. Milking machines are installed; in fact, all the appointments on Mr. Bolger's farm are up-to-date. Berkshire and Middle Yorkshire pigs are bred, and a good number are sold annually. Mr. Bolger has a very comfortable home, and has done well. He says that it is a man's own fault if he does not make a decent living as an agriculturist, but he must be prepared to work hard to attain this end.

Mr. T. H. O. Gerke, Malmoe, Mundubbera, was a wheelwright in Germany prior to his arrival in the district twelve years ago with his wife and two children. He had £80 in his possession at the time. At first he selected 287 acres, and later



he increased his area by 426 acres. As a rule he has 15 acres under crops every year, of which maize is the principal crop. There are 25 acres also under Rhodes grass, portion of which is harvested for seed. He is dairying with a herd of grade Shorthorns and Jerseys, the most in milk at a time being twenty-five. The best monthly return from each of the cows has been 48s. Milking machines have been installed. The farm is carried on by his wife and children, while Mr. Gerke follows his trade as a wheelwright in Mundubbera. A small area has been planted with cotton.



*Well-grassed Downs and Forest Country on Grevillea Plateau  
(Callide Valley District).*

Mr. C. Campbell, of Elderslie, Boynewood, Mundubbera, was a land estate manager in Scotland before he came to Queensland in 1911 with his wife and four children. He had £250 at the time. For two years he was in charge of an orchard in Yeppoon (Rockhampton district). Then he came to Mundubbera and took up a farm of 150 acres, which was later increased by a further 240 acres. The area under crops every year is 25 acres. Maize, Sudan grass, pumpkins, and melons are chiefly grown. This year he has about 15 acres under cotton as well. The dairy herd consists of purebred Illawarras. The best monthly cheque received for cream from seventeen cows was £50. Improved Berkshire pigs are bred. He says that he is happy, contented, and satisfied, and prefers Queensland to Scotland for a home.



Mr. R. F. Gwyther, of Saltleigh, Boynewood, Mundubbera, was formerly a Government railway surveyor, and is a member of a well-known family of agriculturists on the Darling Downs. When he purchased his farm of 1,280 acres three years ago he was well provided for in the way of funds. He has 35 acres under the plough, besides 40 acres of the scrub land under Rhodes grass. Maize, oats, wheat, barley, lucerne, and panicum are grown as feed for the stock. The dairy herd consists of over eighty head of grade Shorthorns, and there are generally thirty-five in milk at a time. The best monthly return from twenty-two cows was £45. Berkshire pigs are bred. He has



*View overlooking the Callide Valley from the Road to Gladstone.*

planted about 12 acres with cotton. Mr. Gwyther says the land is as good as the best on the Darling Downs for agricultural purposes.

### **Terms and Conditions of Selection.**

Special legislation for the settlement of the Upper Burnett and Callide Valley lands has been passed by Parliament. These areas will be made available either as perpetual leases or grazing homesteads under the group system. The perpetual leases will range from 160 to 1,280 acres in area, and the grazing homesteads from 1,280 acres upwards. Towards the end of the present year the first batch of 1,500 portions will



be made available for selection as agricultural and dairy farms. The balance of the land will be thrown open for selection in 1924 and 1925. Before opening, the land will be allotted to approved applicants, who will be required to occupy the selections immediately upon allotment, and to commence making and maintaining improvements. As soon as they show that they are bona-fide selectors the portions allotted to them will be opened for selection with priority to them.

The perpetual lease selections set aside for agricultural and dairying purposes will be subject to the condition of personal residence during the first five years of the term of lease—i.e., the selector himself must reside on his own selection continuously



*Well-grassed Country at Barfield (Callide Valley District).*

and bona fide. After the expiration of the first five years of the term the conditions of occupation must be performed either by the selector or his registered bailiff. Within five years from the issue of the license to occupy, the land must be enclosed with a good and substantial fence, or other substantial improvements effected in value equal to the cost of such a fence. Ordinarily, the selector must commence to make the required improvements not later than twelve months from the date of the commencement of the term, and having commenced them he must make reasonable progress therewith to the satisfaction of the Minister. In connection with the Upper Burnett and Callide Valley lands, however, the selector will be required to commence his improve-



ments immediately upon occupation. The annual rent for the first fifteen years of the term is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of the notified capital value, but no rent is payable for the second year of the term. The annual rent for each period of fifteen years thereafter shall be determined by the Land Court at a sum equal to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of the unimproved capital value of the land as if it were held in fee-simple at the commencement of the period in question. The survey fees are payable in five yearly instalments without interest.

#### SCALE OF SURVEY FEES.

				£	s.	d.
160 acres	..	..	..	9	10	0
320 „	..	..	..	12	10	0
640 „	..	..	..	16	15	0
1,280 „	..	..	..	23	10	0
2,560 „	..	..	..	32	10	0
5,120 „	..	..	..	44	10	0
10,000 „	..	..	..	61	0	0

During the whole term the selector of a grazing homestead must reside thereon continuously and bona fide. The Land Court may, however, grant to the original selector of a grazing homestead, or in the case of his death or insanity the person representing him, exemption from the condition of performance of personal residence for one year after the condition has been performed for the first five years, and thereafter for one year for each further five years in which personal residence is performed. Within three years a grazing homestead must be enclosed with a good and substantial fence, and maintained so during the remainder of the term.

On the completion of the requisite improvements, the selector becomes entitled to his lease.

In addition to the improvements specified in the preceding paragraphs, the Minister will have power to require a selector of a perpetual lease or a grazing homestead within the Burnett and Callide area to effect improvements, which, in the opinion of the Minister, are necessary for the satisfactory working of the holding. This will prevent any selector from merely holding and allowing his land to lie idle to the detriment of the settlement.



In the case of selections held by members of one family, and situated all within five miles of each other, the Land Commissioner may, by special license, permit the selectors to reside on one of the selections.

Perpetual leases and grazing homesteads in the Upper Burnett and Callide Valley land settlement scheme cannot be transferred until the first five years of the term have elapsed, except in the case of the death, or insanity, or incapacity by reason of serious illness, accident, infirmity, or misfortune of the selector; nor can the selections be mortgaged except to the State Advances Corporation, unless, in the case of a grazing



*Scrub and Forest Country near Kariboe Creek (Callide Valley District).*

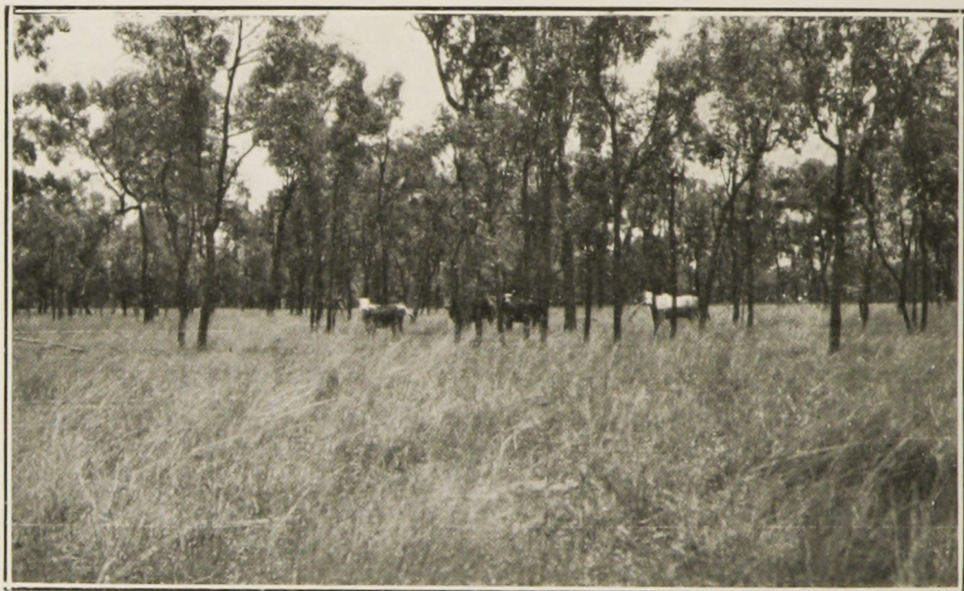
homestead, the Minister grants special permission to the selector after the issue of the lease to mortgage the selection to any person, corporation, or joint stock company for the purpose of stocking or improving the selection. The Minister will, however, have power to make special advances to allottees of portions previous to the issue of the licenses to occupy.

Provision is being made for each selector to have a water supply on his own holding sufficient for all his requirements. A scheme for the sinking of bores, tanks, or wells, and the construction of dams (where necessary), at the most economical cost, is embodied in the legislation before Parliament.



### Concessions to Intending Selectors.

1. Application by a bona-fide intending selector in the Upper Burnett and Collide Valley Districts for a concession ticket on Queensland railways to inspect Crown lands must be made to the officer in charge of the Land Settlement Inquiry Office. Before giving a certificate the officer must be satisfied as to the bona fides of the applicant. A certificate will entitle the person named, on presenting it at the railway station at which the journey is to be commenced, to receive a second-class railway ticket at half fare



*Well-grassed Open Forest Country near Kroombit  
(Callide Valley District).*

2. If any person to whom such certificate has been granted selects a selection he will receive a refund of the half-fare paid.

3. The selector will be entitled, within twelve months from the issue to him of a license to occupy the land, to receive certificates for the following concessions, viz.:—

Free second-class ticket for the carriage by rail of the selector and his family to the railway station nearest to his selection;

Free transport by rail of the selector's ordinary household furniture and effects, agricultural implements, seed, one vehicle, and one set of harness to the railway station nearest to his selection;



A reduction of 25 per cent. on the rates for fencing and building material intended for use on the selection, and for two truckloads of live stock.

4. For the purpose of free transport by rail, the term "ordinary household furniture" will not include musical instruments, wardrobes, marble articles, bookcases, or mirrors (excepting toilet glasses). "Agricultural implements" will not include steam engines or other motive power, or instruments thereof.



*Railway Construction Camp at Mundubbera (Upper Burnett District).*

5. Unless certificates are first obtained, as herein set forth, a selector will not be entitled to any of the concessions provided for.

6. Selectors will be required to pay all extra charges, such as cartage.

### **Arrangements for Intending Selectors to Inspect.**

In this vast expanse of country, which, up to the present, has been held by a few persons, there are no towns, villages, hotels, accommodation houses, or ordinary means of transport for travellers. To meet the position, the Government has established five camps at suitable points in the country. Each camp



is provided with an outfit of twelve tents, with the necessary beds and bedding, and in control of each is an officer-in-charge, who will act as guide to the visitors. A cook is attached to each camp. With the camp outfit there are twelve horses (with saddles and bridles) for the use of intending selectors. The total charge for food, accommodation, horses, and guide will be 5s. per day. In order to enable intending selectors to arrive at the first camp from either Mundubbera or Rannes, the Government will run a motor-'bus, and passengers will be charged a small fare. Intending selectors would be well advised to communicate with the Inquiry Branch of the Lands Department on these matters.

### **Government Assistance to Settlers.**

Under the provisions of the State Advances Act, the State Advances Corporation assists settlers, including agriculturists, dairy farmers, and graziers, to whom it makes advances on the security of freeholds, licenses, and leases from the Crown for the purpose of effecting improvements on the land or for paying off liabilities, or to purchase stock or machinery, or for general purposes, at 5 per cent. per annum, repayable in twenty-five years, or at an earlier time at the option of the borrower. A settler applying for an advance must give a first mortgage on his holding. The State Advances Corporation may make advances not exceeding £1,200 at the rate of 15s. in the £ on the security value of the land and improvements effected or proposed. The terms in regard to repayments extend over a period of twenty-five years with 5 per cent. interest. For the first five years only simple interest is charged at 5 per cent. per annum. After five years the borrower must begin to redeem his advance at the rate of £4 0s. 3d. half-yearly for each £100 borrowed (inclusive of interest) until the whole has been paid. To assist the beginner, advances (not exceeding £300) may be made in suitable cases to the full value of certain initial improve-



ments, such as building, ringbarking, clearing, fencing, draining, or water conservation, and for providing a well or bore.

The loan operations of the State Advances Corporation to the end of June, 1923, were as follows:—

Advances approved, £4,410,777.

Instalments paid, £3,247,574.

“The Co-operative Agricultural Production and Advances to Farmers Acts, 1914-1919,” which are administered by the Department of Agriculture and Stock, provide for advances to farmers or dairy farmers who are the owners of not more than twenty



*Three Moon Creek at Cania (Upper Burnett District).*

cows, the produce of which is sold to a factory, or sheep farmers who are the owners of not more than 200 sheep. The fact that a farmer, dairy farmer, or sheep farmer has received an advance from the State Advances Corporation will not of itself preclude him from obtaining an advance under these Acts. The following table shows the objects, the maximum amounts, and the period for which advances may be made by the Minister for Agriculture:—

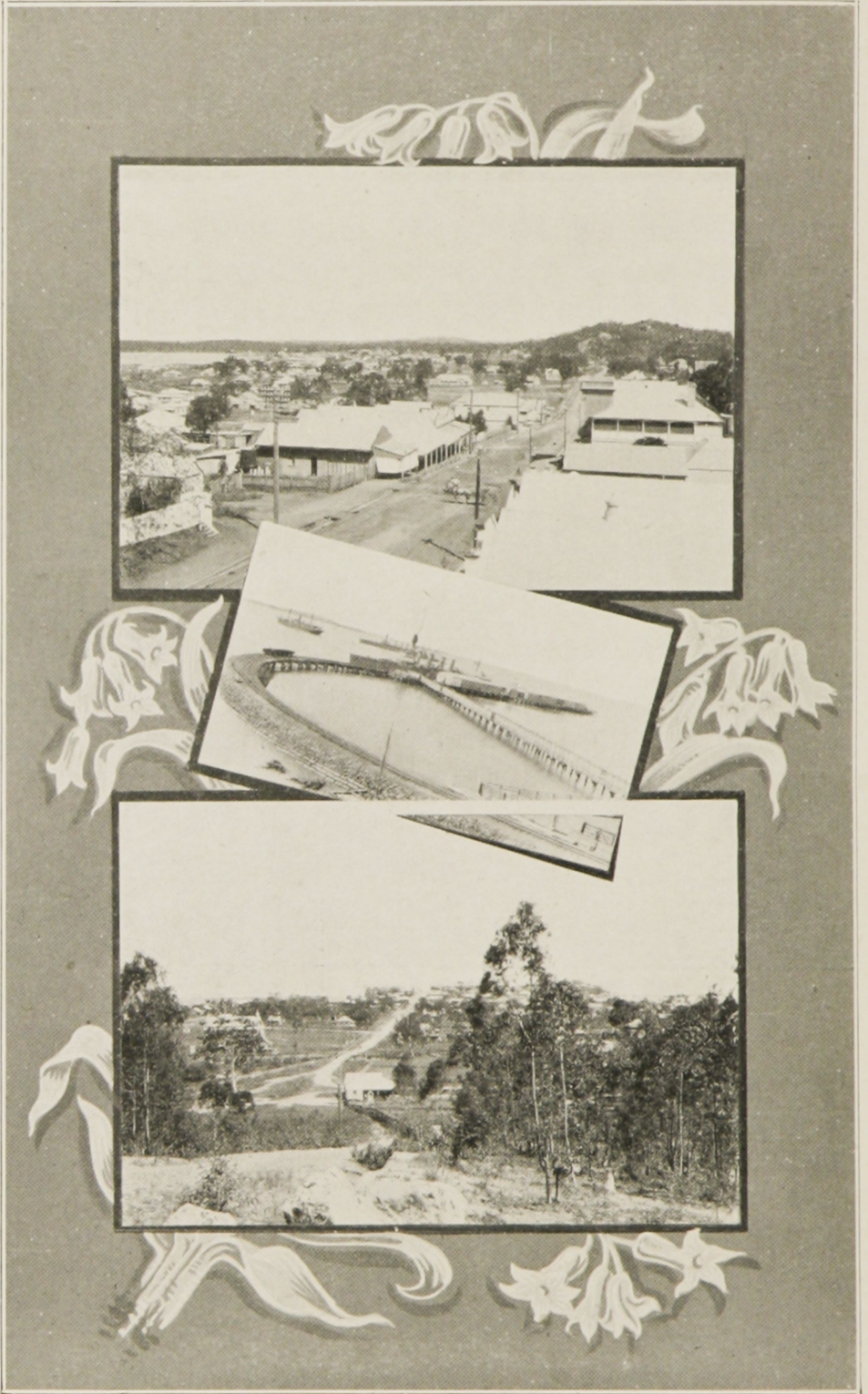
For the purchase of dairy cattle, £200; seven years' period.

For the purchase of pigs, £50; three years' period.

For the purchase of sheep, £200; two years' period.

For the erection of silo, £150; five years' period.





SCENES IN GLADSTONE (CENTRAL QUEENSLAND).

1, Goondoon Street. 2, Harbour and Jetty.

3, Panorama of Town.



### Port and Market Facilities.

The Upper Burnett and Callide Valley Districts are singularly fortunate in having no less than three ports within from 103 miles to 190 miles from the most central township sites in their areas. All of these ports will be connected by rail with the Districts under review. Gladstone, Rockhampton, and Maryborough, three splendid ports and cities of big proportions, will play a big part in the handling and marketing of the produce from the Districts under review. With the development of the land settlement scheme in its entirety, Mundubbera, Eidsvold, Monto, Prairie, and Rannes are certain to become big commercial centres. It is quite within the bounds of possibility that new life will be galvanised into the townships of Many Peaks and Cania, and that a strong incentive will be given investors to develop these and other fields within the Districts.

Incidentally, it may be mentioned that none of the ports already referred to, nor Mundubbera, Gayndah, Many Peaks, Rannes, Wowan, and Mount Morgan, are situated in either the Upper Burnett or Callide Valley Districts. They are, however, important connecting links in the carrying out of the developmental scheme.

Appended are brief particulars in regard to the different ports and towns in question:—

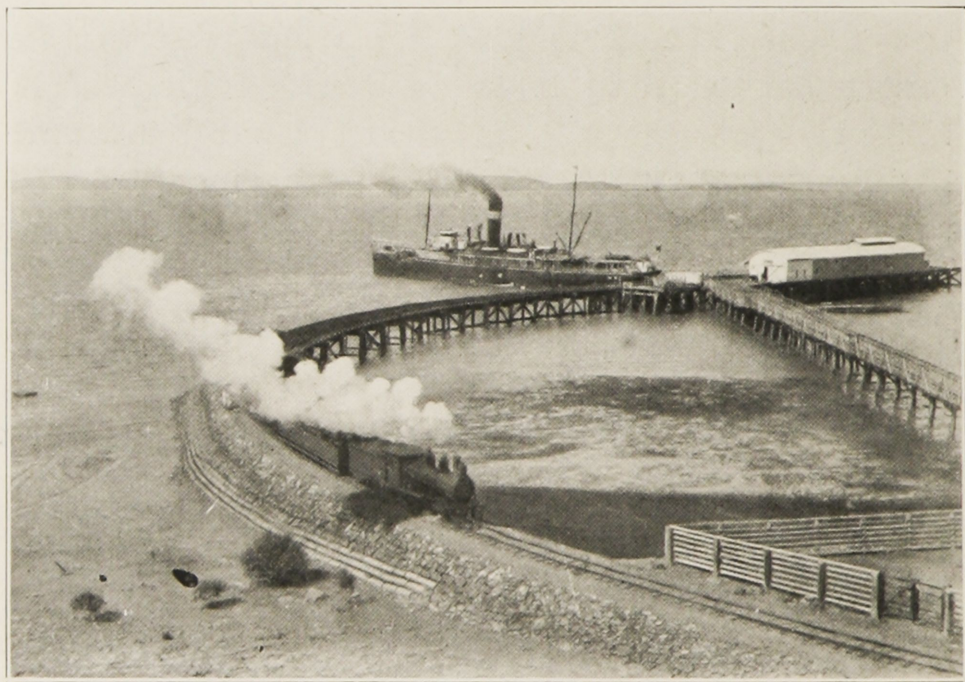
#### Gladstone.

Gladstone, an important town on the North Coast Railway, 328 miles north from Brisbane and 69 miles south from Rockhampton, has one of the finest natural harbours in Australia. It will also be the principal port for the Upper Burnett and Callide Valley Districts. When railway communication is established, Gladstone will be 103 miles from the proposed township of Monto (Upper Burnett), via Many Peaks, and about



190 miles from Prairie (Callide Valley), via the Rannes-Monto branch line. The branch line from the port to Many Peaks taps rich mineral areas, and has also opened up the valleys of the Boyne and Calliope Rivers to closer settlement. The various connecting lines, which will establish communication between Gladstone and the Upper Burnett and Callide Valley Districts, are now in course of construction.

The town is prettily situated on the shores of Port Curtis, and the harbour, which is very extensive, has sufficient depth



*Gladstone Harbour and Jetty (Central Queensland).*

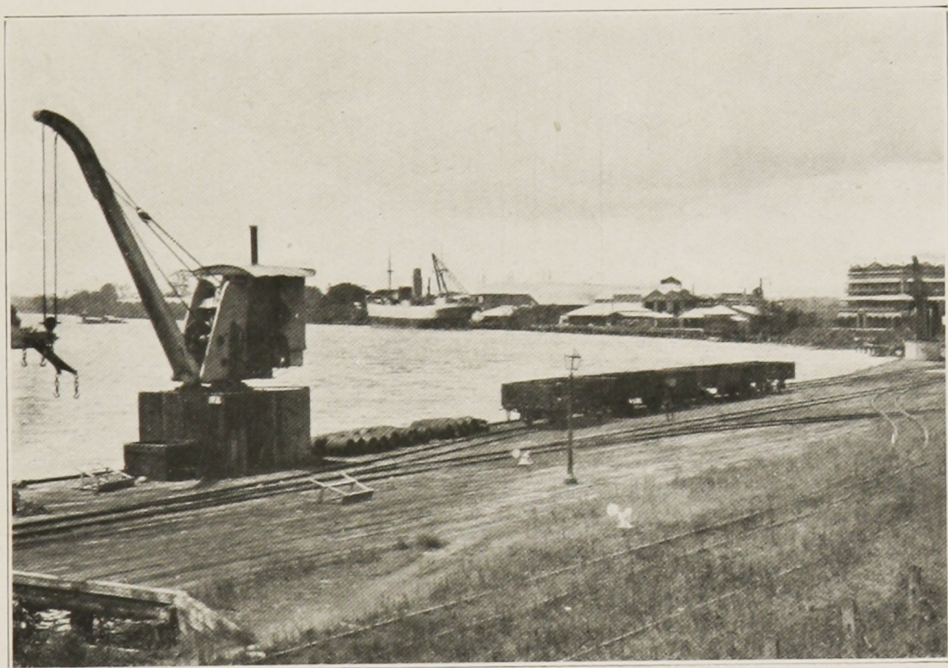
of water at low tide to enable large steamers to come in to the Government Jetty. The Northern mail steamer picks up and sets down her mails here, the railway line establishing communication with Brisbane and the Southern States. A State High School is established in the town. Gladstone is the port for a very valuable pastoral and mineral district, and is now one of the principal shipping centres on the eastern seaboard of the Commonwealth. The population is estimated at 2,128.



Gladstone is also an important mining, agricultural, and dairying centre, and has one of the largest meatworks in the State, an up-to-date butter factory, and a large cotton ginnery.

### Rockhampton.

Rockhampton, the chief port of Central Queensland, is prettily situated on the Fitzroy River, about 40 miles from its mouth. When the railway lines in the Upper Burnett and Callide Valley Districts are constructed, Rockhampton will be



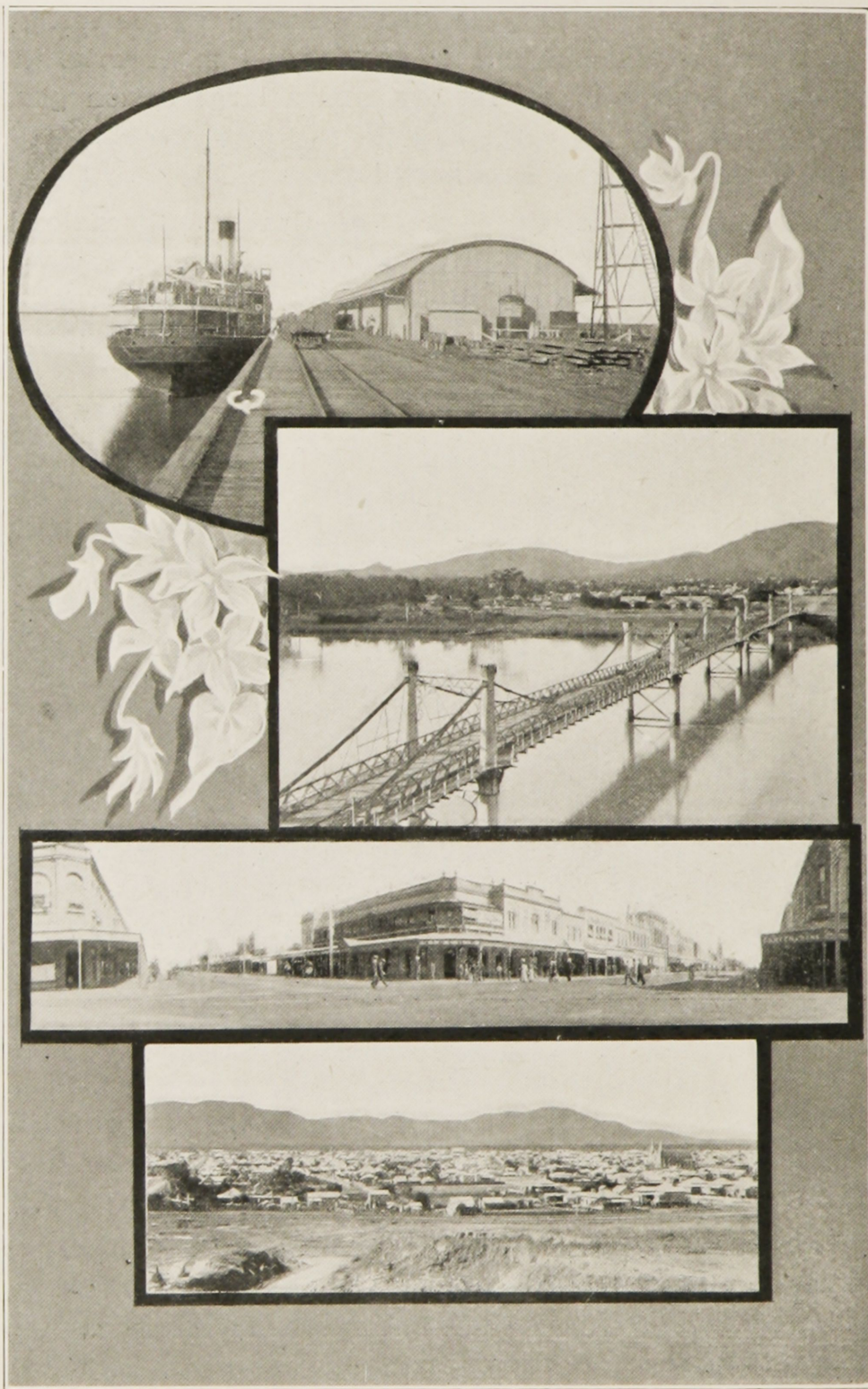
*Wharves at Maryborough (South Queensland).*

173 miles by rail from Monto, via the Rannes-Monto branch line. The population of the city, including North Rockhampton, is 24,182 persons.

Rockhampton is the port of thousands of square miles of magnificent pastoral, agricultural, and mineral country. The city is well laid out, and the streets are wide and well kept. An efficient tramway service is maintained and controlled by the Municipal Council.

The Central railway runs due west from the city to Longreach (428 miles), with branch lines to Blair Athol (240





SCENES IN ROCKHAMPTON (CENTRAL QUEENSLAND).

1, Port Alma. 2, Fitzroy Traffic Bridge. 3, Corner of East and William streets. 4, Panorama of City.



miles), Springsure (206 miles), Yaraka (476 miles), Aramac (403 miles), Mount Morgan (23 miles), and Baralaba (89 miles). The North Coast Railway connects Rockhampton with Brisbane and the Southern States of the Commonwealth. The northern section of the Great North Coast Line is open to Farleigh, a short distance beyond Mackay. Short railway lines connect Rockhampton with Emu Park and Yeppoon, two charming seaside resorts; also, with the deep-water ports at Broadmount and Port Alma. The Alton Downs branch line also connects Rockhampton with Ridgeland (18 miles).



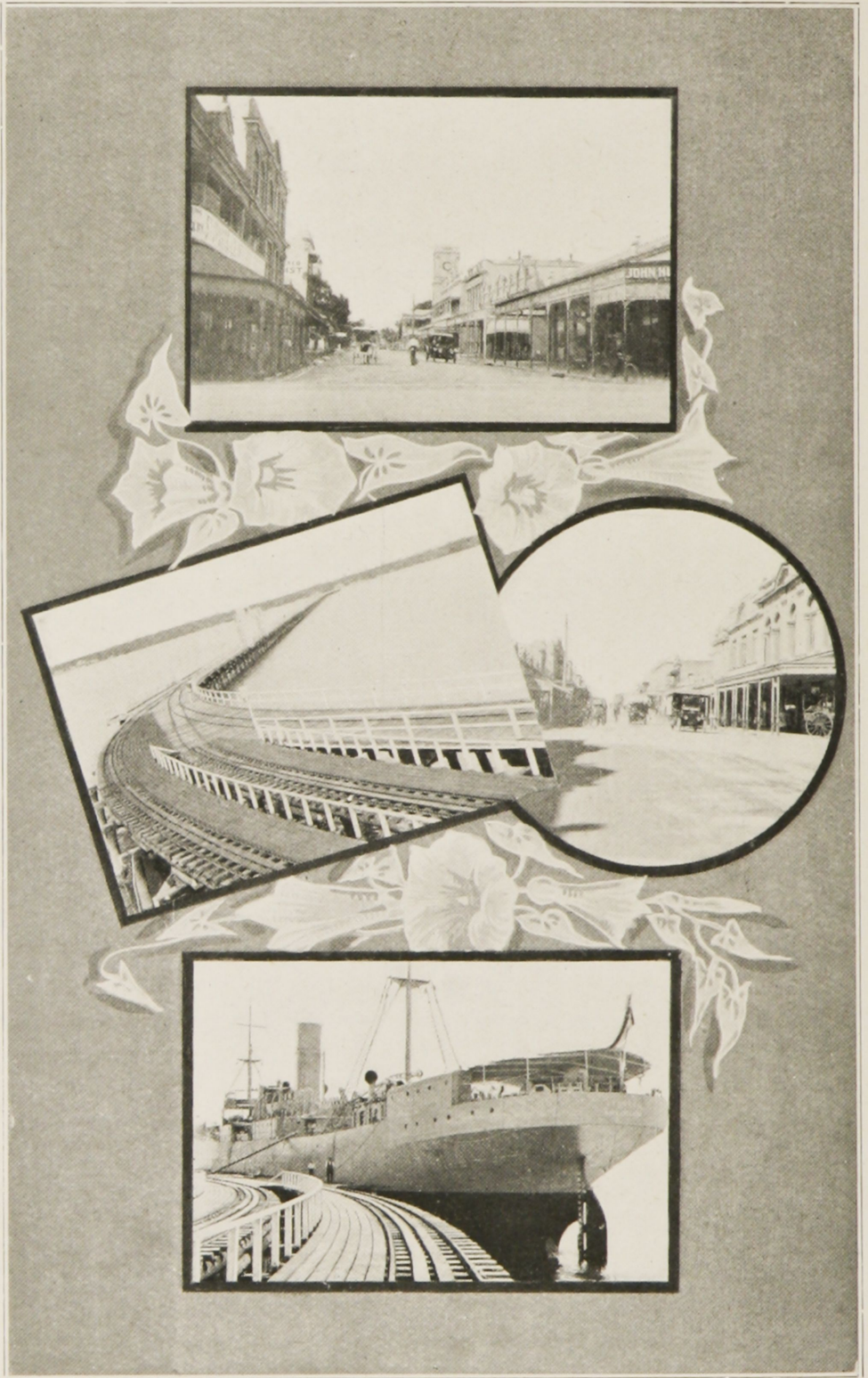
*Wowan Railway Station (Dawson Valley Line).*

The Fitzroy River, running through Rockhampton, is a fine stream, and vessels of large tonnage can berth at the city wharves. The river has been greatly improved by dredging and the erection of retaining walls.

The Warren State Farm, where experiments in stock-breeding, dairying, and general farming are pursued, is close to the city.

There are some fine public buildings in Rockhampton, amongst which may be mentioned the Customs House, Post Office, Commonwealth Savings Bank, Supreme Court, School of Arts, Lands Office, Boys' and Girls' Grammar Schools, Technical





SCENES IN MARYBOROUGH (SOUTH QUEENSLAND).  
1, Bazaar street. 2, Jetty at Port Maryborough (Urangan).  
3, Kent street. 4, Shipping at Port Maryborough.



College, Christian Brothers' College, Convent High School, and General Hospital. The city has two cathedrals (Anglican and Roman Catholic) and several handsome churches, while the business premises of several of the leading firms would be a credit to much older cities.

Rockhampton is lighted by gas and electricity. The city has some fine public parks, and the Botanic Gardens contain a wealth of the most beautiful flora, particularly tropical and sub-tropical foliage. There is a plentiful supply of water, obtained from lagoons and pumped into a reservoir, which has an elevation sufficient to give a satisfactory pressure in all parts of the city. The City Council has also decided to increase the supply by obtaining water from the Fitzroy River at Yaamba.

Within a few miles of the city, at Lake's Creek, are the famous meat preserving and freezing works of the Central Queensland Meat Export Company. The Government railway repair workshops also give employment to a large number of men. The agricultural utilities include a cotton ginnery and three butter factories.

### **Maryborough.**

Maryborough is prettily situated on the banks of the Mary River, about 20 miles from its mouth. It is distant 167 miles from Brisbane, with which it is connected by rail on the main North Coast service. This port will be 204 miles by rail from Monto when the line now under construction is completed. Maryborough has an estimated population of 10,635, and is an important port. It is the outlet for the Burrum coalfield, the rich agricultural and timber country tapped by the Nanango and Mundubbera branch lines, and the sugar lands of the Isis district. This city has also a fine deep-sea port at Urangan, 29 miles distant; the connecting link by rail with Urangan and Maryborough is now open for traffic. A branch line from Isis Junction connects Maryborough with Childers and Dallarnil.

Maryborough has a large foundry and engineering works, the products of which are famous throughout the Commonwealth. Many of the best locomotives in use on the Queensland railways have been built here. There is also a Government railway repair workshop in the city. Two Grammar Schools—one for boys, and the other for girls—enable scholars to obtain a sound secondary education.



Around Maryborough there is an important fruitgrowing district, while agriculture and dairying are making great headway.



*Ceratodus and Freshwater Mullet caught in the Upper Burnett River.*

### **Eidsvold.**

Eidsvold is located on Boundary Creek, a tributary of the Burnett River, and is about 25 miles by road from Mundubbera. A motor service is established between the two towns. The



construction of the railway line from Mundubbera to Eidsvold and Monto towards the Many Peaks section is being rapidly proceeded with.

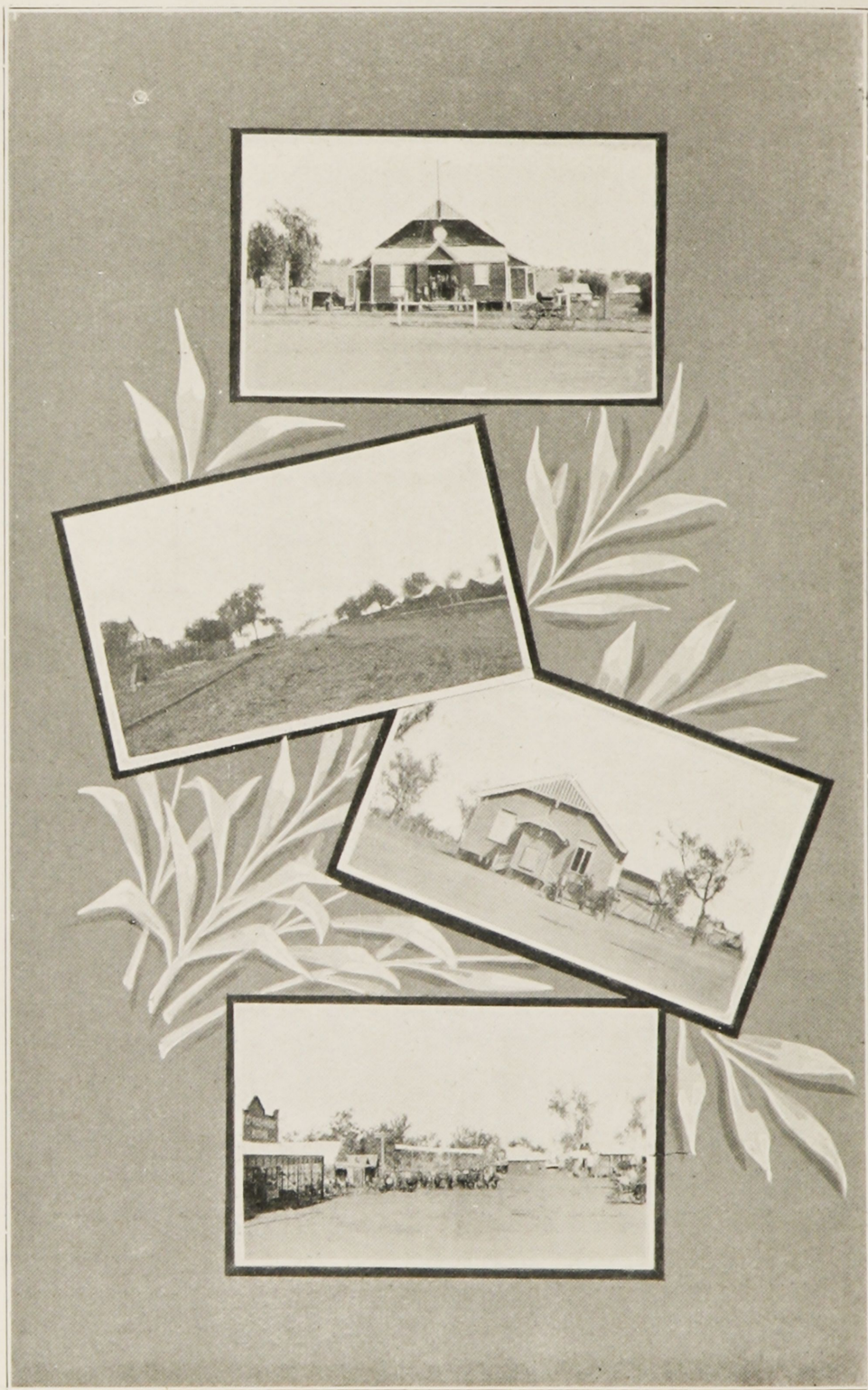
Towards the end of the eighties, Eidsvold gained much renown by the discovery of gold, and for a number of years it was a very large mining town, with a population totalling fully 5,000. Large quantities of gold were won for many years, and then the yield annually dwindled from over 13,000 fine ounces



*Bridge over Burnett River at Gayndah (Upper Burnett District).*

down to comparatively nothing. The boom was at its zenith from 1889 to 1892. Scattered about the town and district there were numerous shafts, a number of which were fitted up with ore-crushing machinery, cyaniding works, &c. To-day all of the shafts have been dismantled and abandoned, and are now more or less full of water. They are, indeed, unwelcome reminders of the vanished mineralogical glory of the town and district. Hopes are expressed by experienced miners, still prospecting in the district, that the reef will be again located, and that a new lease of life will be given to mining activities.





1, Shire Hall, Eidsvold. 2, Moreton Street, Eidsvold. 3, Shire Hall, Mundubbera. 4, Display of Cotton Cultivators in Main Street, Mundubbera. (All in Upper Burnett District.)



For many years past the Eidsvold district has been a very important pastoral area. In the early days the country was used for sheep-breeding, but for some considerable time past the graziers have devoted all their attention to the breeding of beef cattle. The resumption of several of the large runs by the Government, and cutting them up into suitable blocks, has been instrumental in the formation of several agricultural communities. That the country is adapted for the pursuit of mixed farming and dairying is exemplified by the success attained by the settlers, whose experiences are given elsewhere in this book.

The district is well provided with scholastic and religious institutions, public offices, stores, sawmill, hotels, places of



*Main Street, Rannes (Dawson Valley Line), showing stacks of railway sleepers.*

accommodation, halls, lodges, sporting clubs, shire council, &c. The climate is very healthy.

The population of the town and district is about 1,900, the town itself having a population of 400.

Various kinds of fish are found in the streams, including the ceratodus (or lung-fish) in the Burnett River.

### **Mundubbera.**

Mundubbera is situated on the banks of the Burnett River, 113 miles by rail from Maryborough, 280 miles by rail from Brisbane, and about 25 miles by road from Eidsvold. This town, which is surrounded by very rich agricultural and pastoral areas,



is one of the most progressive places in Queensland. Thanks to the remarkable development which has taken place during the past ten years, it is a very important agricultural and dairying centre. It has a splendidly equipped butter factory, the establishment of which has brought about a wonderful expansion in the dairying industry. All classes of crops, including cotton, do well in the district. The cultivation of cotton has been enthusiastically taken up by the settlers, and, speaking generally, they have been well repaid for their labours. The area under the crop during the past season was fully 5,000 acres. The Binjour and Gurgeena Plateaux, which are only a short distance from the town, are particularly fertile tracts of country, and the large community of settlers thereon are making a success as agriculturists. There are still a large number of pastoral holdings in the district, but the chief occupation of the lessees is beef cattle raising.

The town and district has a large number of State schools, several churches, halls, banking institution, shire council, public offices, hospital, accommodation houses, recreation grounds, show grounds, sporting clubs, lodges, stores, hotels, sawmills, &c. Most of the buildings are modern in design and of a substantial nature.

Mundubbera has an elevation of 470 feet above sea level, while that of the Gurgeena Plateau is 1,400 feet, and the Binjour Plateau is 1,200 feet. In consequence of the elevated character of the country, it is remarkably healthy and bracing at all periods of the year.

The town has a population of 500, while that of the district is 3,000.

### **Rannes.**

Rannes is situated on the Don River at its junction with the Dee River. It is 67 miles by rail from Rockhampton, and 106 miles from Monto (Upper Burnett District). The fact that this small township is at the north-western junction of the branch line now under construction through the Prairie and Callide Valley country to Monto is going to play a big part in making it a town of much commercial, as well as agricultural, importance in the near future. At the present time there is a great



deal of agricultural and dairying activity in the Rannes district. In fact, Wowan and Rannes are among the largest cotton-growing centres in Queensland. The township of Rannes at the present time is gradually evolving from canvas and bag structures into more substantial wooden buildings, and it is only a matter of time when it will be one of the most important country towns, not only on the Dawson Valley line, but also the Rannes-Monto branch line. Being the starting point of the lastnamed line, the headquarters of the railway construction works have been established in the township, with the result that it has become a regular beehive of activity.



*Railway Construction Camp at Rannes (Dawson Valley Line).*

Like most other towns, Rannes has most of the public, financial, commercial, religious, educational, and sporting conveniences for the present-day requirements. The population (including those engaged on railway construction) totals fully 500.

### Cania.

Cania is a small township on Three Moon Creek, and about 25 miles south-west by road from Many Peaks. This township, which is surrounded by pastoral holdings, was the scene of much mining activity a number of years ago, when alluvial gold was found in large quantities. The gold, however, petered out, and



the only indications remaining to-day of the goldfields are numerous abandoned shafts. A good deal of prospecting is pursued by small parties of miners, but only small quantities of gold are now found. The country is well adapted for grazing and agricultural purposes; in fact, many of the graziers have demonstrated in a small way the agricultural possibilities of the soil. The population of the township is about 150. During the gold boom in the early seventies the township had a population of fully 1,000. There is a hotel, boarding-house, several stores, and a State school in the township.



*Mob of Angora Goats on Dawes Range, Cania Township  
(Upper Burnett District).*

### **Many Peaks.**

Many Peaks is situated on Deception Creek amidst a cluster of more or less conical-shaped hills, and is 58 miles by rail from Gladstone, and about 45 miles from the proposed township of Monto, in the Upper Burnett District. Some years ago the town was a very busy mining centre, but at the present time matters in this respect are very quiet. The Mount Morgan Gold-mining Company carried on mining operations for flux on a large scale for years. The works have been dismantled for some time, and as a result the town has sustained a big set-back. Copper and other minerals have been found in and around the town, but the mining activities in this regard do not warrant the employment of much labour at the present time. Perhaps, when



the country is further opened up by railway communication, speculators may be induced to again turn their attention to the development of the mineralogical possibilities of the district.

To the northward of Many Peaks, there is a large tract of splendid agricultural and grazing country in the valleys of the Calliope and Boyne Rivers, on which there are a large number of very successful agriculturists, dairymen, and grazing farmers.



*Panorama of Gayndah (Upper Burnett District).*

The construction of the railway line from Many Peaks to Monto is well under way.

Many Peaks has all the necessary public, financial, commercial, industrial, religious, educational, amusement, sporting, and social facilities of the general run of country towns. When the mining industry was in full swing the town had a population of over 3,000; at the present time it is about 1,200.



### Gayndah.

Gayndah, which is situated on the banks of the Burnett River, is connected with the port of Maryborough by a branch line. It is 90 miles by rail from the last-named port, 23 miles from Mundubbera (the present terminus of the branch line), 257 miles from Brisbane, and will, when the line is constructed to Monto, be 89 miles from that township. The town is surrounded by a very rich agricultural and pastoral district. The fertile Binjour and Gurgeena Plateaux are from 7 to 10 miles distant from the town.

Gayndah is one of the oldest provincial towns in Queensland, and the country, prior to the resumption of the large areas for



*Capper Street, Gayndah (Upper Burnett District).*

closer settlement, was mainly used for pastoral purposes on a large scale. The land is particularly suitable for agricultural and dairying pursuits, and as a consequence the district is now peopled with a large community of successful agriculturists and dairymen. The real business section of the town is on the south side of the river, but a good deal of commercial activity is carried on on the north side of the river, more especially near the railway station. The original township, which is two miles away from the present main centre, has lost nearly all of its commercial importance, although several of the Government and other public institutions are still located there. The Burnett



River, within the town areas, is spanned by several fine bridges, the one giving access to North and South Gayndah being a particularly notable structure. The town is lighted by electricity, the streets at night presenting a very bright appearance. The water supply is pumped from the river into overhead tanks, and reticulated therefrom by gravitation to the townspeople specially served. The establishment of a modernly-equipped ginnery on the north side of the river near the railway station has given a decided stimulus to cotton-growing in the district. There is also an up-to-date co-operative butter factory on the north side, while in the district there are several butter and cheese factories. The existence of these factories has brought about a wonderful expansion in the dairying industry.

Gayndah is well provided for in the way of public institutions, commercial concerns, lodges, sporting clubs, State schools, churches, Roman Catholic Convent, recreation grounds, show grounds, racecourse, agricultural associations, ambulance brigade, banks, public and private hospitals, picture show, weekly newspaper, halls, town and shire councils, &c. The public institutions include General Hospital, Court House, Lands Office, Post Office, and Commonwealth Savings Bank.

The ceratodus (or lung-fish) is found in the Burnett River in large numbers.

The population of the town is 1,289, while that of the district is 3,000.

### Mount Morgan.

Mount Morgan is a very important mining town, situated 23 miles south-west from Rockhampton, with which it is connected by rail. The celebrated Mount Morgan Mine, one of the world's wonders, is here. This wonderful mine practically maintains the population of the town. Some idea of the magnitude of the Mount Morgan Company's operations since 1st July, 1886, to date, may be gathered from the fact that it has paid away in dividends to its shareholders £9,229,167. The production of minerals in 1922 was as follows:—Gold, 49,568 fine oz.; silver, 12,963 oz.; copper, 4,483 tons; fireclay, 5,795 tons.

Railway communication is now established between Mount Morgan and the Dawson Valley, the distance to Baralaba (the terminus) being 42 miles. There is a State coal mine at Baralaba.





1. *The Famous Mount Morgan Mines (Central Queensland).*  
2. *Panorama of the Town.*



When the Rannes-Monto branch line is open for traffic, Mount Morgan will, undoubtedly, provide a market for some of the produce from the Upper Burnett and Callide Valley Districts.

The public buildings in the town which call for special mention are:—Technical College, School of Mines, State High School, State schools, and Ambulance Brigade.

There are many picturesque spots in the district, the St. Mary's Falls being particularly so.

The population of Mount Morgan is 7,585.



*Clearing Dense Scrub on the Route of the Rannes-Monto Railway Line.*

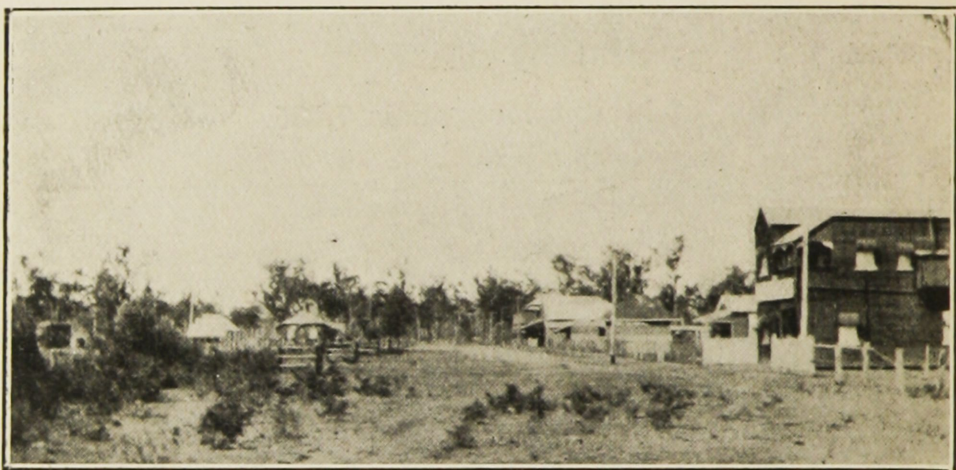
### Wowan.

Wowan is situated on the Dee River, and is the centre of one of the largest cotton-growing areas in Queensland. It is 52 miles by rail from Rockhampton, 15 miles from Rannes, and will be 121 miles from Monto. Formerly the township was at Deeford, a few miles away from the railway station. The cutting up of the large pastoral areas by the Government for closer settlement many years ago has transformed the cattle runs into numerous smiling agricultural homesteads. General farming and dairying are largely carried on in the district. The importance of the district in this respect is emphasised by the



fact that the agricultural activities include a cotton ginnery and a co-operative butter factory, both of which are equipped with the most modern appliances and machinery.

The town, which has a population of about 1,000, is likely to develop into a commercial centre of much importance in the near future. At present it is only a small place, but it possesses all the necessary public offices, stores, accommodation houses,



*Main Street, Wowan (Dawson Valley Line).*

financial, educational, and religious institutions, sporting clubs, ambulance brigade, hall, agricultural associations, &c., to meet the requirements of the people. A good number of beef cattle are still bred annually in the district on the remaining stations and grazing farms. Wowan's proximity to the Callide Valley District will, no doubt, induce the new settlers in that area to send their cream and cotton to the first-named place.

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Brisbane, 23rd July, 1923.



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